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Man allegedly steals camera at Suicide Cliff. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

75¢

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Ship catches fire off Tinian

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A ship with two people aboard caught fire off the coast of Tinian early yesterday morning but there were no immediate reports of any fatalities or injuries.

A source on Tinian who agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity said he heard about the vessel fire early yesterday morning at around 8am, that there were passengers aboard the vessel, and that everyone made it out unharmed.

The vessel, identified as the *Lousia Bell*, a 30-foot, blue and yellow boat,

See SHIP on Page 4



CANOE CAMP
A participant in the 500 Sails Canoe Camp sands a canoe paddle yesterday at the 500 Sails boatyard in Lower Base.
MARC A. VENUS

Story on Page 2

'Follow PWS closest to your renewal date'

» DOL: PWS using older survey still accepted

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor emphasized with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the latest Prevailing Wage Survey should be used for future CW-1 petitions.


Benavente

In clarifying the ongoing PWS confusion, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente noted that the PWS closest to your application date should be the survey used for achieving steps 1 to 3 in the CW-1 hiring process.

"…If [employers] used the first PWS and it is processed, that should be fine. U.S. Department of Labor

See PWSL on Page 4

Rota delegation in disarray

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» Santos refutes RLD chair claim; 'Finance did not certify funds'

The monolithic Rota Legislative Delegation is showing some cracks, pitting two members of the delegation against two others over a delegation session last Thursday afternoon that failed to secure a quorum.

Both Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), who were both

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INSIDE



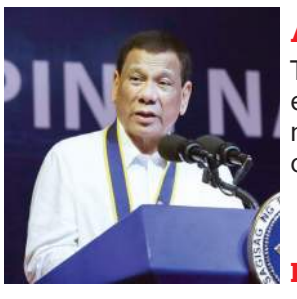
LOCAL
Kensington Hotel Saipan's third anniversary bash was one its guests would not forget.

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BUSINESS
Fisherman's Wharf is the newest seafood restaurant in the CNMI at the heart of Garapan.

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ASIA
The Philippines has enacted a bill that penalizes a range of acts of sexual harassment.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Settlement negotiations continue in M/V *Luta* case

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A settlement between the CNMI government and the owners of Luta Mermaid LLC regarding the $400,000 in public land funds they were loaned for operational purposes is still under negotiations.

A settlement conference was held last week at the Superior Court between the CNMI government and Luta Mermaid LLC and its owners but no agreement was reached and negotiations are still ongoing, according to Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

The CNMI government is suing the owners of cargo ship M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to return the $400,000 in public funds that was loaned to them for the vessel's operations.

The government, through the Office of the Attorney General, is suing Luta Mermaid and its shareholders Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, Fidel S. Mendiola III, and Fidel Mendiola Jr. for unjust enrichment, conversion, and other claims.

Former lieutenant governor Victor Hocog and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson were not among those named defendants in the government's lawsuit.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the government initially asked the Superior Court, through the lawsuit, to come up with a judgment of $400,000 in favor of the government.

According to the government's complaint, the Rota Legislative Delegation adopted Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-3 on March 20, 2015, to authorize the Finance secretary to "pay for fuel, lubrication, and costs necessary for the maiden voyage of M/V *Luta* from Louisiana to Rota and to provide for the personnel and operational costs of the Office of the Mayor of Rota."

Hocog, who was Senate president at that time, participated in drafting and the adoption of that resolution.

Resolution 19-3 expressed the will of the Rota delegation that the Finance secretary be authorized to loan $400,000 to the ship's owners, with the amount to be repaid within one year.

On March 27, 2015, two days after being notified by the Rota Legislative Delegation that Resolution 19-3 had been adopted, Larson remitted $400,000 from the general fund to the defendants' bank account.

Because of this transfer, the defendants allegedly received public funds without legal authorization. The defendants have not entered into any contract of any kind with any government agency for the repayment of the $400,000.

On Jan. 17, 2017, Larson asked the defendants to repay the $400,000.

500 Sails camp teaches basics of canoe-making

Non-profit group 500 Sails, in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office, is holding a five-week canoe camp at its boatyard in Lower Base.

According to 500 Sails executive director Pete Perez, the canoe camp has five student participants (ranging in ages from 14 to 16 years old) and are being supervised by three teachers.

The canoe camp is currently on its fourth week and focuses on introducing high school students to the basics of sailing and the process of building traditional canoes using modern materials.

Yesterday, the participants were shown how to create canoe paddles made out of a mixture of foam and fiberglass. Perez said the process requires constant attention and caution, as the materials are sensitive and take a while to be fixed in the event of any errors.

Perez also mentioned that four of the students have already been certified as competent swimmers and can now set out to sail.

The camp began last June 24 and will end on Friday, July 26. The camp is from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Perez said they are working with other organizations like 4-H Marianas, Project PROA, and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and has managed to provide different kinds of training to over 200 participants.

According to the group's website, the name "500 Sails" was inspired by the arrival of the Spanish galleon *San Pedro* in the CNMI in 1565, when it was met by the Chamorros in their sailing canoes numbering 500. The group's goal is to reclaim the maritime tradition in the Marianas by getting 500 traditional Chamorro and Carolinian *proas* on the water in the Marianas once again. ***(Marc Venus)***



500 Sails canoe camp teacher Samuel Westbrooks, left, assists a student participant produce a paddle during the 500 Sails' canoe camp yesterday at its boatyard in Lower Base. The camp will continue until next Friday, July 26.

MARC A. VENUS





BEH closes I Love Ramen

The Bureau of Environmental Health shut down I Love Ramen last June 20 for serious violations of health and sanitation standards. It was reopened last June 25 after fixing the violations found.

BEH, under the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., did its sanitary inspections of retail and food and drink serving establishments last month. The following are the establishments inspected and their classifications:

GRADE A

1. Terry Snack Bar, Chalan Kanoa
2. ABC Store 702, Garapan
3. LA T ax Free Shop, Chalan Laulau
4. Ming Ming Retail, Susupe
5. Korean Restaurant, Garapan
6. ABC Store 701, Garapan
7. Cery Store, Fina Sisu
8. Mankok Catering, San Antonio
9. Saipan Fresh Market, Garapan
10. Saipan Fresh Butcher, Garapan
11. Shanghai Store, Garapan
12. Star G Snack Bar, Chalan Kanoa
13. Marpac Wholesale, Gualo Rai
14. Club C, Susupe
15. Yaong Wholesale, Airport Rd.
16. Connie BBQ, Susupe
17. Noni Juice, San Vicente
18. Pacific Wholesale, Gualo Rai
19. Sea of Calilee, Susupe
20. Barney's Pizza, Susupe
21. M&M Fish Mart, Garapan
22. Fine Tree Catering, San Vicente
23. Plumeria Store II, Chalan Laulau
24. Pho Restaurant, Garapan
25. Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio (inclusive of 11 establishments)
    a. Hotel
    b. Buoy Bar
    c. Beach Club
    d. Seaside Grill
    e. Main Kitchen
    f. Isla Restaurant
    g. Cafeteria
    h. Charley Disco Bar
    i. Magellan
    j. Bakery
    k. Coffee Shop
26. Yonghao Market, Koblerville
27. Five Star Wholesale, Chalan Kanoa
28. Kimpachi Restaurant, Garapan
29. Kimpachi Retail, Garapan
30. Blue Haus Retail, Garapan
31. Shell Dandan Retail, Dandan
32. Hana Trading Wholesale, Lower Base
33. McDonalds, Garapan
34. McDonalds, Chalan Laulau
35. Spicy Thai Noodle House, Garapan
36. Yaong Wholesale/Retail, Gualo Rai
37. Gold Ribbon Restaurant, Chalan Piao
38. Gold Ribbon Catering/Bakery, Chalan Piao 39. C-Mart, Chalan Kanoa

GRADE B

1. Puerto Rico Takeout Bento, Puerto Rico
2. Old Tony's Seafood Restaurant, Garapan
3. Mango Resort Fun Beach Snack Bar, As Perdido
4. Elim Catering, Dandan
5. Hao Wei Lai Tofu, Chalan Piao
6. Eastern BBQ, Garapan
7. Shirley's Catering, Koblerville
8. Safehouse Bar & Grill, Garapan
9. Global Traders Wholesale, As Lito

BEH provides the following classifications for Food Safety Rating:

- 90-100: Grade A
- 80-89: Grade B
- 70-79: Grade C
- Less than 69: closure/suspension ***(PR)***

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McDonald's Saipan donates $3K to Saipan Rotary Club



McDonald's Saipan co-owner and Rotary Club of Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu, second left, and club past president Greg Borja, second right, pose for a picture with the $3,000 check donated by McDonald's Saipan to the Rotary Club. The check was presented yesterday at the club's regular Tuesday meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

MARC A. VENUS

McDonald's Saipan donated $3,000 to the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at the club's regular Tuesday meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan. The amount donated were for the annual Rotary McFun Run that happened last June 22.

McDonald's Saipan is a major sponsor of the event and Rotary Club past president Greg Borja thanked the company for their contribution. "For everyone who came out and supported the McFun Run, we really appreciate your support," Borja said.

The event was a 5-kilometer run that started from the Carolinian Utt in Garapan to the National Office Supply and back.

All proceeds of the McFun Run will go toward the Polio Plus Foundation. The Rotary Club is a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Current Rotary Club president Marcia Ayuyu hopes that this fun run will continue for many more years.

Borja will be presenting more information about the event—participant numbers, turnout, etc.—at the next Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday.

In a previous interview with Borja, he estimated the total number of registered participants at 210.

This year's other sponsors are Zumba, Let's Move Marianas, Coca Cola, Twin's Supermarket, Atkins Kroll Saipan, Ming Yang Supermarket, Triple J Saipan, Herman's Modern Bakery, Yaong Corp., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan Computer Services, Joeten Superstore, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, MegaByte Saipan, Duty Free Store, National Office Supply, and D&Q. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

Guam Homeland Security official sentenced for mailing meth

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A Guam Homeland Security supervisor has been sentenced for mailing methamphetamine to his workplace.

The *Pacific Daily News* reported Tuesday that 42-year-old Ricky Q. Sanchez was sentenced Monday to serve 30 months in prison.

Sanchez pleaded guilty in 2016 to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Authorities say Sanchez was involved in a plan to mail two packages of meth from Las Vegas to Guam's Homeland Security headquarters in Agana Heights in 2014.

Sanchez was in Las Vegas training for his job when the first package of 27.4 grams of pure meth was misaddressed and intercepted by authorities.

Records say Sanchez told authorities there was also meth in a second package, which was never seized.

Supplier Francisco Arias has been sentenced to life in prison for drug dealing.



Wet season approaches

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

An upper-level low to the east and a monsoon trough to the south continues to approach the Marianas and the two systems are expected to combine throughout the week to create substantial rainfall for the islands.

According to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, the two systems are on track to get the Marianas' wet season started.

An upper-level low is a closed circulating eddy while a monsoon trough is described to be wind surges accompanied by bursts of thunderstorms.

The combined systems are expected to drop three to six inches of rainfall throughout the week. Showers started to pick up as early as Sunday evening.

Localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Check storm drains in your area to make sure they are not clogged and, if planning anything outdoors, have a backup plan in place in case of rainfall.

According to an update from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, showers are expected to continue throughout the week and next week.

Rainfall has been very low over the Commonwealth since January and rainfall will likely be below normal through July.

For Saipan specifically, the drawdown of fresh water resources will still be a problem during the next few weeks and fire danger will still be extreme over parts of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SNILD approves $1.9M appropriation

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation approved during their session last July 14 a measure that appropriates over $1.9 million in poker fees to several government entities and programs.

The delegation unanimously voted to pass House Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 21-24 after a few tweaks.

The bill appropriates $1.96 million in poker fees collected from Saipan Local Law 11-2.

The bill appropriates $470,001 to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program; $10,000 to the Saipan Little League; $180,000 to the Saipan Zoning Office for its operations and procurement of a vehicle; $400,000 to the Saipan Mayor's Office for operations and the procurement of a 10-cubic-yard truck and a new vehicle; $83,000 to the Northern Islands Mayor's Office for a new vehicle; $39,000 to the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council's purchase of a new vehicle; $500,000 to the Northern Marianas College for personnel costs for Saipan employees; $250,000 to the Public School System; $7,000 to the Saipan Fishing Association for the 35th annual Fishing Derby; and $23,000 to the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association for the upcoming annual Agricultural Fair.

Attao introduced an amendment to his bill to include appropriations for PSS, the SFA, and the Agricultural Fair and was further amended through a subsidiary amendment offered by vice speaker Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) to adjust the amounts.



Saipan and Northern Island Delegation members discuss an amendment made to a local bill during a brief recess last Monday in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.
ERWIN ENCINARES

ROTA

From Page 1

absent from the session last Thursday on Capital Hill, were criticized for the reportedly unannounced absences.

The only ones at the session were delegation chair Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota). Youth Congress Speaker Dawno Agbayani showed up for the session but, as a non-voting member, the RLD could not act on any bills without a quorum of at least three voting members.

Both Rep. Manglona and Agbayani vented their disappointments with Santos and Hocog for skipping the session without notice last Monday. When contacted by *Saipan Tribune*, Sen. Paul Manglona declined to comment on the matter.

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that she skipped the meeting to attend a family emergency while Hocog noted that he was in talks with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and other members of the Legislature on the parameters of the Marianas Public Land Trust loan, House Bill 21-44.

When asked about it, Palacios affirmed that Hocog was involved with MPLT discussions last week.

In an explanation later furnished to *Saipan Tribune,* Santos noted that Rota delegation chair Sen. Paul Manlona "should not dictate when to call sessions. In consideration of the members' schedule, the chairman should consult with the members of the RLD to ensure that the schedule for the session is suitable for the members to be present."

She added that she did not receive a notice telling her of the delegation session and reiterated that Sen. Paul Manlona also failed to call for a leadership meeting prior to the session, which is customary practice.

Santos: Delegation does not have the funds to appropriate anyway

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Santos noted that the agenda for the RLD that day was to act on House Local Bill 21-15 and HLB 21-16, respectively appropriating $86,457 in e-gaming fees for Rota residents getting hemodialysis and those with terminal illnesses and appropriating $148,920 to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation for housing assistance and others.

However, according to Santos and Hocog's meeting with Finance Secretary David Atalig, he reportedly said he has yet to release a certified availability of funds to push the bills through the delegation.

"Based on recent veto messages by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the RLD chairman… was advised that, before the delegation can entertain any appropriation bill, it would be fiscally responsible to first obtain a certification of funds from the Department of finance," she said, adding that the certification of funds would indicate the most recent amount available for appropriation to ensure the prevention of a veto for any proposed appropriation bill due to the lack of funding.

"…I don't want to cast my vote…'yes' when there is nothing," Hocog told *Saipan Tribune*. "I never knew that there was an overrun by the first senatorial district's funds that is owed to the [central government]."

The senators further discovered that the RLD, according to Atalig, still had an outstanding balance owed to the CNMI government amounting to $103,410 from previous fiscal years. She also added that the RLD owed the central government $57,677 for the Rota Little League's recent participation in the 2018 regional tournament in South Korea.

"[Atalig] requested for additional time to review the books to familiarize himself with the history of appropriation laws by the RLD. Because of this, [Atalig] does not recommend that the RLD take any action on appropriation bills until any debts owed…are cleared due to the government's financial situation," Santos said.

As a final kicker, Santos cited the absence of the two Senate legal counsels, Jose Bermudez and Antonnette Villagomez. Both are reportedly on personal leave, according to Santos.

Saipan Tribune attempted to contact Rep. Donald Manglona and Sen. Paul Manglona for comments, but Sen. Paul Manglona declined, while Rep. Donald Manglona did not respond.

SHIP

From Page 1

has since sunk off the coast of Tinian. The captain of the boat was Mariano Lelurman.

A statement from the Tinian Department of Public Safety said that the island's police received a call about a burning vessel outside the Tinian harbor at around 7:25am.

Tinian Boating Safety was dispatched to the scene at around 7:45am, along with two Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel.

At the scene, responding officers found the vessel engulfed in flames. The responding officers said the two passengers on board took refuge in another boat that came to assist when they noticed the burning vessel. The passengers were reportedly unharmed.

The U.S Coast Guard was also notified about the vessel and advised Tinian DPS to tow the burning vessel out to sea. That was done until the boat sank into the ocean between Tinian Carolinas Point and Goat Island.

The U.S Coast Guard is advising local mariners to stay away from the location of the sunken vessel for safety purposes.

PWS

From Page 1

said they were not going to deny that.," Benavente said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*. "Starting today, [employers] have to…use the [latest] PWS [but] if employers used the [first round of the] PWS, that is fine—[employers] do not have to reapply."

When asked if there was a cutoff date for applications that started their CW-1 hiring process using the earlier versions of the PWS, Benavente replied there was none.

She further noted that USDOL advised her through conference calls that the PWS must be renewed every year—in our case, before late June 2020.

Benavente herself did not expect to see that the second PWS contained some of the occupations that were already in the first survey, adding that the CNMI DOL did not handle the data for the PWS.

Still, just "follow the [prevailing wage] survey closest to your renewal date," she added.

Benavente gave the clarification after some employers told *Saipan Tribune* that CNMI DOL would not issue them some of the documents they need to file their CW-1 petition because of discrepancies noted between the two PWS versions.

She disputed that claim, though, noting that everything that happens requires her signature before it is official.

"The CNMI DOL does not withhold documents from employers who are wanting to hire employees. Our job is to help the employers find the right employees for their jobs," she said. "…If there is a hiccup, it is not coming from the CNMI DOL."

Benavente also reportedly verified the records from her department's employment services division, refuting the claims.

For assistance on the CW-1 hiring process or for prevailing wage issues, Benavente urges employers to call DOL director of employment services Eugene Tebuteb at 664-3190 or 322-9934.

The U.S. Department of Labor was also asked for comments, but it has yet to respond as of press time.

Man allegedly steals a camera at Suicide Cliff

A man who allegedly brazenly stole a GoPro camera at the Suicide Cliff lookout in broad daylight last Sunday was arrested by police just about two hours later.

On Sunday, July 14, 2019, at about 7:18am, the Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a theft incident at the Suicide Cliff lookout.

Officers who were dispatched to the location of the caller arrived at the scene at about 7:26am and met with an Asian male who said that he was the caller.

He told the officers that he was at the Suicide Cliff lookout and was recording the scenery with his friends, when he placed his GoPro camera on one of the railings before walking down toward the leveled area to fly his drone.

As he was walking down, he noticed a local male, skinny in build, wearing a black T-shirt, walk toward the railing and grab the GoPro camera. The Asian male approached the local male and asked for the GoPro camera, but the local male ignored him and got into a white sedan and drove off. The Asian male then took a picture of the vehicle's license plate and drove back to his hotel to call 911. The individual showed a picture of the vehicle to the officers, who radioed the plate number to DPS central. After the interview with the victim, officers began a search for the vehicle.

Around 9am, officers spotted a white sedan bearing the same plate number reported. As officers called it in, they walked toward the front door of the house and spoke with the owner of the vehicle, who admitted to taking the camera earlier at the Suicide Cliff lookout.

At around 9:04am, the individual was placed under arrest for theft, read his Miranda rights, and brought to the Department of Corrections for booking. ***(PR)***

High surf warning up until 6am today

A high surf advisory is currently in effect in the CNMI until 6am today.

That means high surf will affect beaches in the advisory area, producing localized beach erosion and dangerous swimming conditions.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a monsoon surge is producing hazardous surf in the Marianas and a large southwest swell produced by a monsoon wind surge was projected to produce hazardous surf and a high risk of rip currents last night.

There is a high risk of rip currents along south and west facing reefs until this morning. The hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet was predicted to subside last night and fall below hazardous levels by this morning.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing out along south and west facing reefs and beaches. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. Swim parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. ***(EOC)***

Order keeps details of seaman's suit vs US confidential

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court issued Monday an order that keeps confidential the details of a lawsuit that a merchant seaman filed against the U.S. government over the injuries he suffered aboard a ship at a dock in Japan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona agreed that a protective order is appropriate as the parties in this case expect to exchange confidential personal and medical records.

They also want potential records protected since to the incidents complained of involve a U.S. naval vessel and personnel.

Merchant seaman Kenneth Lockhart, an American who is a resident of Saipan, alleged in his lawsuit that he suffered when a loaded palate tilted and pinned him against the railings aboard a ship at a dock in Japan in 2016.

Lockhart said the U.S. owned the vessel, USNS *Montford Point*, which was operated and managed by Ocean Shipholdings Inc.

Lockhart, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is suing the U.S. for negligence under the Jones Act, for unseaworthiness, and failure to maintain and cure the vessel.

Lockhart asked the court to hold the U.S. government liable to pay him damages, medical expenses, loss of earnings, and court costs. He wants a jury trial.

Manglona ordered that any party or non-party may designate as "confidential" (by stamping the relevant page) any document or response to discovery which that party or non-party considers in good faith to contain information involving trade secrets, of confidential business or financial information, subject to protection under the law.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) and the projects under the Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority (COTA).

A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: lms.dpwtsd@gmail no later than July 24, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions regarding DPW TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine M. Seman, Highway Administrator or Mr. Kenn Aldan, Federal Program Coordinator at the Department of Public Works TSD Highway Branch at 234-9828 or 234-9838. Questions or comments for COTA, please contact Ms. Alfreda Camacho or Mr. Diego Songsong at 664-2690.

The following are listed in the TTIP:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)"

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	$ 1,326,986.00	$ 1,326,986.00	$ 1,326,986.00	$ 1,326,986.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	$ 37,500.00	$ 37,500.00	$ 37,500.00	$ 37,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE-Design				
				Construction				$ 1,500,000.00
I	Sinapalo	11	"Route 11 - Sabana Road Improvement, Phase II"					
				Construction		$ 1,750,000.00		
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE Design		$ 300,000.00		
II	San Jose	205	Route 205 - Road Improvement	PE Design		$ 100,000.00		
				Construction				$ 1,000,000.00
II	Tachungnya	206	Route 206 - Road Improvement	PE Design				
				Construction			$ 775,000.00	
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE				
				ROW				
				Construction		$ 1,000,000.00		
				CM				
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE Design	$ 50,000.00			
				Construction				
				CM-DPW				
III	Oleai-Christo Rai	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 3 (JP Center to Oleai)	PE Design				
				Construction	$ 1,500,000.00	$ 1,500,000.00		
				CM	$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00		
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 (Bank of Guam to Horiguchi Bldg.) CM/Section 106	PE Design				
				Construction		$ 1,500,000.00		
						$ 300,000.00		
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design				
				Construction	$ 1,500,000.00			
				CM-DPW				
III	Obyan	302	Naftan Road Improvements	Env. Update	$ 20,000.00			
				Construction	$ 3,000,000.00			
				CM	$ 300,000.00			
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design	$ 500,000.00			
				Construction		$ 1,000,000.00	$ 1,500,000.00	
				CM		$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design				
				Construction			$ 1,500,000.00	
				CM-DPW				
TOTAL OBLIGATION					$ 8,404,486.00	$ 9,134,486.00	$ 5,309,486.00	$ 3,884,486.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					$ 603,225.00	$ 6,409,210.88	$ 1,318,024.88	$ 51,838.88
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					$ 10,167,171.88	$ -	$ -	$ -
OJTSS/NSTI					$ 57,500.00	$ 57,500.00	$ 57,500.00	$ 57,500.00
Annual Allocation:					$ 3,985,800.00	$ 3,985,800.00	$ 3,985,800.00	$ 3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)					$ 14,813,696.88	$ 10,452,510.88	$ 5,361,324.88	$ 4,095,138.88
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					$ 8,404,486.00	$ 9,134,486.00	$ 5,309,486.00	$ 3,884,486.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)					$ 6,409,210.88	$ 1,318,024.88	$ 51,838.88	$ 210,652.88
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)								

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) FY2020-2023

Projects Funded by: U.S. Department of Transportation

DISTRICT	FIXED	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
SAIPAN	ALL	Purchase of Twelve (12) Medium Duty ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Bus for the Fixed Route		$2,162,292.00			
SAIPAN	ALL	Supply, Installation of Thirty Seven (37) Fixed Route Bus Stop Shelters	Construction		$1,009,500.00		
SAIPAN	4	Supply, Installation of Bus Stop Signboard and Construction of COTA Transit (Bus) Pads		$30,000.00			
SAIPAN	ALL	A/E Design for Fixed Route Bus Stops	PE Design	$300,000.00			
			Construction				
			CM				
SAIPAN		Supply of Maintenance Equipment & Tools for the COTA Maintenance Facility		$100,000.00	$100,000.00	$100,000.00	$100,000.00
SAIPAN	ALL	Construction of Bus Transfer Stations at the Northern Marianas College, Paseo De Marianas & Kagman	PE Design		$150,000.00		
			Construction			$680,000.00	
			CM			$70,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION				**$2,592,292.00**	**$1,259,500.00**	**$850,000.00**	**$100,000.00**

Project Aligi plans decorated power poles

By MARC VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of island artists is working with the Lady Diann Torres Foundation to decorate power poles throughout the CNMI in a project that is intended to inspire hope in the CNMI and to promote literacy and CNMI artists.

The artist group, led by chair Meena Benavente, presented its newest project, "Project Aligi," to the Rotary Club of Saipan during the club's regular Tuesday meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan to invite more support from the community.

According to Benavente, the artist group wants to reinforce the topic of "Marianas Strong" and resiliency among community members, promote language in literacy through the LDTF, promote local artists, and beautify the CNMI.

The group has already received donations from Tasi Tours.

Tasi Tours president Masato Tezuka said that the company has already given the group $1,700.



MARC A. VENUS
Project Aligi's Meena Benavente, second right, educates the Rotary Club of Saipan about the project's plans and goals during the club's regular Tuesday meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Project Aligi will not only focus on Saipan; it intends to include Tinian and Rota.

According to Benavente, certain sections of the island will have certain themes. For example, on Saipan, Beach Road (Garapan to San Antonio Beach Park) will focus on the ocean and the color blue, while Middle Road (Chalan Laulau to San Roque) will focus on history/culture with the color yellow, Airport Road (Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to Atkins Kroll Saipan) will present flowers/fauna with the color orange/peach, and Back Road (San Vicente to Capital Hill) will focus on nature, with the green color.

According to first lady Diann Torres, interested companies and organizations may reserve certain poles through the group's "Adopt a Pole" initiative under one condition: the company must follow the theme for the certain area. The group is also striving to get support from the youth; the project has reached out to schools around the island and hopes to gain support through the "Adopt a Pole" initiative.

Rotary Club president Marcia Ayuyu said the club is interested in participating in the project.

The group wants to officially unveil the decorated power poles on Oct. 25, one day after the anniversary of Super Typhoon Yutu. However, Benavente said the group intends to make this a long-term project, hoping to keep the topic of "Marianas Strong" ongoing among the people of the CNMI. The group is also looking for local artists who want to help.

The group is partnered with the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, local artists headed by Benavente, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Corrections, Tasi Tours, Rota Mayor's Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, Municipality of Tinian, Pratt & Lambert Paints, and many more.

Interested artists who want to participate can pick up applications at the MVA office on Beach Road near Atkins Kroll Saipan. Deadline for applications is on Sep. 16, 2019.

For more information, contact MVA's Naomi Santos through email at msamtos@mymarianas.com or call (670) 664-3200, or the Lady Diann Torres Foundation at (670) 235-5383.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a special meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Commission's main office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda

II. REPORTS:
- A. Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS - NONE

V. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Civil Action No. 19-0202-CV

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
- A. IPI Financial Matters
- B. Report by the CCC Audit
- C. Report by the Legal Counsel

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(b). Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Police on the lookout for reckless driving

Reckless drivers, beware!

This week, the police will be watching for reckless drivers.

As part of the annual Operation Safe Driver Week event during the week of July 14-20, the Department of Public Safety's Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program section will be on the lookout for commercial vehicle and passenger vehicle drivers engaging in dangerous driver behavior.

Such drivers will be pulled over by law enforcement and may be issued a citation.

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance emphasizes the importance of driver behavior, citing a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistic that driver actions contributed to 94% of all traffic crashes.

» 'Late won't kill you, speeding will'

Each Operation Driver Week has a point of emphasis for enforcement and this year's emphasis is on speeding.

In 2017, speeding contributed to 26% of all traffic fatalities, affecting over 9,700 lives, according to NHTSA. Specifically, speeding of any kind was the most frequent driver-related crash factor for drivers of commercial motor vehicles and passenger vehicles, according to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's 2016 Large Truck and Bus Facts.

During Operation Safe Driver Week, law enforcement jurisdictions throughout North America and its territories will be endorsing, promoting, and supporting the following message: Late won't kill you, speeding will.

In addition to the emphasis on speeding, DPS MCSAP personnel will be tracking other dangerous driver behaviors throughout Operation Safe Driver Week, such as distracted driving, texting, failure to use a seatbelt, following too closely, improper lane change, reckless or aggressive driving, failure to obey traffic control devices, evidence of drunk or drugged driving, etc. ***(PR)***

DREAM PACIFIC CORPORATION
Has an opening for
RESERVATIONS SALES AGENT (1)

Job Duties:
1.) Make arrangements for Hotel/Restaurant/Optional Tour Reservations of tourist customers.
2.) Make daily schedules for Korean customer's trip itinerary.
3.) Make Inquiry on hotel availability.
4.) Coordinate with tourist customers/hotels/restaurants/optional tour companies in making any requests from tourist customers.
5.) Coordinate and communicate with Tour Companies in Korea in regards to upcoming/arriving Tourist customers.
6.) Make reports on daily tour activities.
7.) Make Hotel/Restaurant/optional tour payments.

Requirements:
- At least High school Graduate or higher.
- Must be knowledgeable in computer programs (Excel, Word and Online Reservation System)
- Must know how to operate simple office machines such as fax/telephone and computer
- Good verbal and written communications required.
- Must be able to read, write and speak Korean Language for better communications with the main office and with the customers.
- At least 12 months related experience in travel/tourism industry.
- Police clearance required- equally applied to both US workers and CW-1 Workers.
- Valid Driver's License Required.
- Previous Job Certificate required- equally applied to both US workers and CW-1 Workers.

Salary: $ 8.54 per hour
This is a temporary full time position

Interested applicants Send resume to dreampacificcorp2016@gmail.com or call 1-670-234-1667 (Monday to Saturday 9am-6pm).

DREAM PACIFIC CORPORATION
Has an opening for
TOUR GUIDE (5)

Job Duties:
1. Handle pre-arrange package tours & activities surrounding in-bound tours, have the ability to carry out activities numerated in the package tour.
2. Prepares reports on tour activities.
3. Correspond with tour operators in Korea.
4. Prepare exit & arrival schedules.
5. Formulate, organize & execute an attractive & competitive tour package to be sold Korean tourists who are based in Korea.
6. Confirms reservations, arranges sales of optional tours or services.
7. Assist in selling of optional tours, assist customers on daily basis in explaining all the optional tours and rental items available and perform other duties as assigned or as required.
8. Explain the different optional tours available on the island.
9. Explain and inform tourist customers about the different historic tourist spots on the island to give each customers knowledge about the islands history and its significance to the people of Saipan.

Requirements:
1. Two years related experience in tour/travel industry.
2. Must be able to speak, read and write Korean Language.
3. Computer skill required, excel and word.
4. At least High school graduate.
5. Traffic and Police clearance required (Will be applied equally to US workers and CW-1 workers).
6. Must possess a Tour Guide Certificate from MVA/NMC.
7. Must possess a valid CNMI Driver's License.
8. Must be willing to work flexible schedule.
9. Previous work experience certificate required (Will be applied equally to US workers and CW-1 Workers).

Salary: : $ 9.23 per hour
This is a temporary full time position

Interested applicants Send resume to dreampacificcorp2016@gmail.com or call 1-670-234-1667(Monday to Saturday 9am-6pm).

DREAM PACIFIC CORPORATION
Has an opening for
TOUR MANAGER (1)

Job Duties:
1.) Plan transportation and accommodations for travel agency customers.
2.) Determine destination modes of transportation, travel dates, cost and accommodations required.
3.) May also describe plan and arrange itineraries and sell tour packages.
4.) May assist in resolving clients travel problem.
5.) Oversees Tour guides and fix their schedule.
6.) Plan tour itineraries, applying knowledge of travel routes and destination sites.
7.) Resolve any problems with itineraries, service or accommodations.
8.) Sell travel packages.
9.) Arrange for tour or expedition details such as accommodations, transportation, equipment and the availability of medical personnel.
10.) Evaluate services received on tour, report findings to the organizers.

Requirements:
- Must be at least High school Graduate with 2 years related experience.
- Must be knowledgeable in computer programs (Excel, Word and Online Reservation System)
- Must be able to read, write and speak Korean Language for better communications with the main office and with the customers.
- At least 2 years related experience in travel/tourism industry.
- Police clearance required- equally applied to both US workers and CW-1 Workers.
- Must possess a Valid Driver's License.
- Previous work experience Certificate required- equally applied to both US workers and CW-1 Workers.

Salary: $ 14.82 per hour
This is a temporary full time position

Interested applicants Send resume to dreampacificcorp2016@gmail.com or call 1-670-234-1667 (Monday to Saturday 9am-6pm).

BEH undergoes food security training

For four days this week, the Bureau of Environmental Health will be offering limited services as its employees undergo training on ensuring the health and safety of food products distributed throughout the CNMI.

The four-day training, from July 16 to 19, 2019, is a partnership between the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s BEH and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's West Coast Imports Division.

The training will discuss federal requirements for the import, export, manufacturing, and labeling of food and drink products sold in the CNMI, as well as environmental inspections and preventive controls for food.

The training will include agency representatives from the CNMI Consumer Protection Task Force, with the hope that this will strengthen tie-ups for future collaborations, increasing awareness about agency programs, and sharing current approaches and best practices for compliance with BEH regulations.

The FDA officers are also scheduled to meet with seaport tenants—Commonwealth Port Authority police and personnel, regulatory personnel, and cargo and cruise shipping agents—for a short presentation and question-and-answer session.

This training is funded by the Association of Food & Drug Officials Retail Program Standards, with the overarching goal of strengthening BEH capacity to continue to meet the requirements for standardization as an FDA food safety inspection officer.

During this training BEH services will be limited to entertaining customer calls, accepting requests for inspections, and responding to complaints that are classified as imminent health and safety hazards. ***(PR)***

Rare Monday cleanup at Paseo





CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 24 Saipan Awaodori Team members took part in a rare Monday cleanup of Paseo de Marianas.

Taking advantage of the summer break, PDM Promoters Inc. did a rare Monday cleanup of Paseo de Marianas and its surrounding environs for its scheduled monthly cleanup, collecting a total of 300 lbs. of trash.

The group usually does its cleanups on a Saturday but Sonia Siwa, the non-profit group's coordinator, said they did the Monday cleanup instead since members of the Saipan Awaodori Team, which usually participates in the cleanup, are having their summer break and will not be available during the weekend.

A total of 32 volunteers took part in the monthly cleanup: 24 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team and eight employees of Kinpachi Restaurant.

The cleanup started at 9am and covered the usual areas of Paseo de Marianas, Coral Tree Avenue, American Memorial Park Road, Beach Road, and connecting alleyways.

Siwa said PDM Promoters had a 7-year-old Japanese visitor, Riria Kaneko, who joined the cleanup.

"It's nice to see these kids regularly volunteering for our cleanup. It's also a bonus that they're having fun doing it and enjoying the company of each other," she said.

PDM Promoters' monthly cleanups are supported by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the non-profit's major sponsors, T-Galleria and TSL Foundation.

T-Galleria and TSL Foundation's support enables PDM Promoters to have the cleaning materials needed for their monthly cleanups. Kinpachi Restaurant, meanwhile, provides the meal and snacks for the volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters will be at it again in August when it conducts its next monthly cleanup of 2019. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MILESTONES

Alipio graduates from basic training



Alipio

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class June Christian Q. Alipio graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Alipio is the son of June M. and Virginia Q. Alipio of Saipan. He is a 2018 graduate of Saipan Southern High School. ***(PR)***

Bordon graduates from basic training



Bordon

U.S. Air Force Airman Isaiah Bordon graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Bordon is the son of Rogelio and Catherine Bordon of Saipan. He is a 2017 graduate of Marianas High School. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-016

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 29, 2019 **TIME: 2:00 PM**

"DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

*Mandatory bidders meeting on July 03, 2019 @ 11:00 am, Saipan time @ CHCC Conference Room #3.

*Off-island vendors, please email Subroto Banerji @ Subroto.banerji@dph.gov.mp for a Zoom link.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ SUBROTO BANERJI
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THWE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANAS ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 I FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Plaintiff, -v- RAMON S. DELA CRUZ and REBECCA B. DELA CRUZ Defendants.	)))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0410

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
YOU HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer n accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated June 19, 2019 by order of the Court
/s/
Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702

INVITATION TO BID
ITB19-JUDICIARY-03
GUMA' HUSTISIA SKYLIGHT PROJECT

The Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Judiciary") is soliciting sealed bids for the Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice ("Guma' Hustisia") Skylight Project. This project involves the demolition of existing skylights and its replacement with concrete caps and skylights for the Guma' Hustisia located at Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

A copy of the bid package may be obtained by visiting the Accounting Services Unit's Cashier Window, located next to the main entrance to the Guma' Hustisia, between **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Monday to Friday, excluding observed holidays, upon registration completion. The bid package also contains architectural-engineering drawings and specifications that must be retrieved online at www.justice.gov.mp. For website issues preventing access, please contact Martha Mendiola, Program and Resource Specialist, at martha.mendiola@justice.gov.mp.

Sealed bids, containing one (1) original and three (3) copies must be placed in an envelope marked "ITB19-Judiciary-03, Skylight Project," and submitted in person to the Accounting Services Unit Cashier Window, located next to the Guma' Hustisia's main entrance, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. on August 15, 2019 (ChSt)**.

Bid Opening. Bids will be publicly opened and read at **3:00 p.m. on August 15, 2019**, at the Judiciary's conference room located at the Guma' Hustisia.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference. A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2019** at the Judiciary's conference room located at the Guma' Hustisia.

Bid Security. A *Bid Security* of fifteen (15%) of the total bid price must accompany bids. Bid security must be in a bid bond, in cash, by certified check or cashier's check. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. *If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).* (ICC may take up to 5 business days).

Bonds. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred percent (100%) and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price must be furnished by the successful bidder within five (5) business days of contract execution. The Payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").

Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC). Bidders shall submit a clearance from the CNMI Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Surety Questions. Questions and concerns on authorized Surety must be directed to the OIC.

Project Questions. All questions regarding ITB19-Judiciary-03 must be submitted via email to Budget and Finance Director John T. Villagomez at john.villagomez@justice.gov.mp by 12:00 p.m. on August 2, 2019. Responses will be provided to all registered, prospective bidders via email no later than August 8, 2019.

Performance Period. The performance period for this project is sixty (60) calendar days, beginning with the date a Notice to Proceed is issued.

All bids received shall become the sole property of the Judiciary. The Judiciary reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Judiciary.

Bidding procedures will be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70,30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR



Demonstrators gather to block a road at the base of Hawaii's tallest mountain, Monday, July 15, 2019, in Mauna Kea, Hawaii, to protest the construction of a giant telescope on land that some Native Hawaiians consider sacred. AP

Protests flare over construction of telescope in Hawaii

By CALEB JONES and JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAUNA KEA, Hawaii (AP)—Singing, chanting and lying on the ground in the road, hundreds of people demonstrated on Monday against the construction of a giant telescope on a mountaintop that some Native Hawaiians consider sacred.

The protests were the latest salvo in a yearslong fight that pits scientific discovery against cultural preservation.

Scientists hope the massive telescope planned for the site, a world-renowned location for astronomy, will help them peer back to the time just after the Big Bang and answer fundamental questions about the universe. But some Native Hawaiians consider the land holy, as a realm of gods and a place of worship.

The protesters gathered in response to an announcement by the state that officials would close the road to the summit of Mauna Kea on Monday so they could begin bringing equipment to the construction site in coming days.

At about daybreak, a group of kupuna, or elders, sitting in chairs, tied themselves together with rope and blocked the road to the summit in hopes of preventing construction equipment from getting past. Another group of protesters spent the day lying prone on the ground, with their arms shackled under a grate in the road.

After two protest leaders spoke with police, they addressed the crowd and told them anyone who didn't move would be arrested. The group would move aside, but the elders were expected to remain, protest leaders Kaho'okahi Kanuha and Andre Perez said.

By mid-afternoon, law enforcement hadn't arrested anybody, saying their priority was installing concrete barriers along a nearby highway to create a buffer between speeding cars and the large numbers of people congregating in the area.

Those on the grate left after being told they wouldn't be arrested.

Walter Ritte, an activist, said it was difficult lying there for 11 hours. He said protesters' arms were connected through a series of metal pipes under the grate. Authorities would have had to cut the pipes to remove them, he said.

"It was so cold at 4 o'clock in the morning," Ritte said. "It was a test of our fortitude. This mountain is like our last stand."

Telescope opponent Jennifer Leina'ala Sleightholm said she hoped peaceful protests would lead to an end of the project while acknowledging that was an unlikely scenario.

"I think I know what will happen, but what I hope will happen is I hope that they would just turn around and save our kupuna," she said, using the Hawaiian word for elders.

Protesters vowed to return on Tuesday.

Richard Ha, a Native Hawaiian farmer who supports the project, said he's encouraged that there seems to be some cooperation between protesters and law enforcement.

He said he sympathized with the protesters, but is hopeful construction will begin.

It can be hard for Native Hawaiians to support the telescope because they fear backlash for being perceived as opposing Hawaiian beliefs, he said.

"It's very difficult when you have family members on different sides," he said.

The project has been delayed by years of legal battles and demonstrations, drawing attention from the likes of "Aquaman" actor Jason Momoa, who has Native Hawaiian ancestry and has voiced opposition to the telescope.

Scientists selected Mauna Kea in 2009 after a five-year, worldwide search for the ideal site.

Protests disrupted a groundbreaking and Hawaiian blessing ceremony at the site in 2014. After that, the demonstrations intensified.

Construction stopped in April 2015 after protesters were arrested for blocking the work. A second attempt to restart construction a few months later ended with more arrests and crews pulling back.

Hawaii's Supreme Court has ruled the construction is legal, permits are in place, and the state has given the company behind the telescope a green light to resume building. The company is made up of a group of universities in California and Canada, with partners from China, India and Japan.

Ancient Hawaiians considered the location kapu, or forbidden, according to the University of Hawaii. Only the highest-ranking chiefs and priests were allowed to make the long trek to Mauna Kea's summit above the clouds.

Today, the university leases the land at the summit from the state for existing telescopes and observatories on the summit. A road built for telescope access decades ago is used by thousands of tourists and locals each year, including Native Hawaiians who go there to pray.

Supporters of the $1.4 billion telescope say the cutting-edge instrument will not only make important scientific discoveries but bring educational and economic opportunities to Hawaii.

The telescope's primary mirror would measure 98 feet (30 meters) in diameter. It would be three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope, with nine times more area.

Gov. David Ige has said unarmed National Guard units would be used to transport personnel and supplies and enforce road closures but would not be used in law enforcement capacity during what could be weeks of protests.

In a news conference Sunday, Ige said that he "respected the right of people to protest" at the telescope site as long as protesters behave lawfully.

"As construction begins, our number one priority is keeping everyone safe," Ige said, adding that he wants to make sure construction workers and truck drivers have unimpeded access to the telescope site.

SBS CORPORATION dba HELLO SAIPAN
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) MARKETING MANAGER
JOB DUTIES:
Plan, direct or coordinate marketing policies and programs such as determining the demand of services offered by a firm and its competitors and identify potential customers, develop pricing strategies and the goal to maximizing firms profits or share of the market, while ensuring customers are satisfied.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be college graduate with
- With at least 2 years work experience

Salary: 19.45/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position.

(2) RETAIL SALESPERSON
JOB DUTIES:
Sells merchandise, greet customers and ascertain what each customer wants or needs, recommend, select and help locate to obtain merchandise based on customers need and desires, compute sales prices, total purchases and receive and process cash or credit payment, prepare merchandise for purchase and questions regarding the store and its merchandise.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months' work experience in sales
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character

Salary: 8.36/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position.

(1) TOUR GUIDE
JOB DUTIES:
Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months' work experience as tour guide
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character
- Able to read an speak in Korean language

Salary: 9.23/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position.

(1) TOUR MANAGER
JOB DUTIES:
Directs and supervises other tour guides to escorts individuals and groups on sightseeing tours or places of interest and provide pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be college graduate
- With at least 2 years work experience in tour service
- With knowledge in making policy and implementing rules

Salary: 9.23/hr to 11.00/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position.

Interested Applicants can email their resume to
sbscorporation2121@gmail.com or
can call office number 235-2121 for more information
from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

TWO HONG CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) CHEF COOK
JOB DUTIES:
Direct and may participate in the preparation, seasoning cooking of salads, soup, fish, meats vegetables, desserts and other foods, may plan and price menu items, order supplies and keep records and accounts, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations, check the quality of raw or cooked food products to ensure that standards are met, estimate amounts and costs of required supplies such as food and ingredients, instruct cooks or other workers in the preparation, cooking, garnishing or preparation of food, supervise or coordinate activities of cooks or workers engaged in food preparation

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With work experience as chef cook in Korean Menus
- With good moral character and can work flexible time

Salary: 14.14/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position

(2) WAITRESS/WAITER
JOB DUTIES:
Take orders from patrons for food and beverages, check with customers to ensure that that they are enjoying their meals and take actions to correct any problems, check patrons identification to ensure that they meet minimum age requirements for consumption of alcoholic beverages, collects payments from customers, write patrons food orders on order slips, memorize orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With work experience as waitress
- With good moral character and can work flexible time

Salary: 8.28/hr
This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position

This job opportunity is a temporary full-time position
Interested Applicants can email their resume to iteunteun@gmail.com or can call office number 233-1515 for more information from Monday to Friday between the hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Kensington anniversary bash was one for guests to remember

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a number of international performers, an open bar, and all-you-can-eat treats, Kensington Hotel Saipan's third anniversary bash last Saturday was one its guests would not forget.

Kensington Hotel Saipan, which prides itself in providing unique services to its guests, threw a huge party and invited many in the community to help the hotel celebrate the milestone.



MARK RABAGO
E-Land Group of Companies Saipan CEO Matthew Park, second right, joins Kensington Hotel Saipan staff in entertaining guests during the hotel's third anniversary bash last Saturday.

That took the form of nonstop entertainment; from start to finish, guests were seen dancing and clapping to the beat of the songs. Hotel guests were seen bopping to the beats of Korean pop group Ulala Session and were mesmerized by the music of the China Miracle Folk Orchestra and more.

E-Land Group of Companies and Kensington staff even performed a surprise number that lit up the faces of guests with enormous smiles.

Kensington also had amazing raffle prizes like a trip to Korea and three free night all-inclusive stay at the Kensington and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

To end the night, Kensington put on an amazing firework display that lasted over 15 minutes.

According to Matthew Park, chief executive officer of the Saipan business chain of the E-Land Group, Kensington always wants to offer something amazing to their guests in order for them to remember not just the hotel but Saipan too.

"We have a vision to be the best hotel possible. The only way we keep our guests is through the best service and unique service is the most important thing. If you compare our service to other hotels, we are different. So, guest can remember Saipan with all those unique services. Only in Kensington will you see even a general manager dance," he said.

One of the new amenities Kensington recently launched in celebration of its third-year anniversary is their daily mini-cruise.

"This month we added the daily cruise. They go out to Managaha and our guest do snorkeling over there. And they love it. And we are going to add our garden in the north, which is going to be a trekking area. We have more development plans for Kensington," said Park.

Bill 'opens up many job opportunities'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
Erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed at their Friday session a bill that would allow minors to serve and sell alcoholic beverages, in what its author said will open up more job opportunities for the youth.

House Bill 21-48, which would allow minors, or individuals who are at least 18 years old, to serve or sell alcoholic beverages but not mix it, passed the House last Friday on a unanimous vote.

The bill prevents a licensee, agent, or employee, however, to allow anybody under 21 to mix any alcoholic beverages at any on-sale establishment.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, author Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) noted that the bill's intention is to provide for more job opportunities for the younger generation.

"If we can entrust 18-year-olds to be able to vote and select their leaders, then I believe it is also my duty to represent them and provide opportunities for growth as well," he said.

Camacho clarified that the bill does not allow minors to both mix and taste the alcohol.

The legislation's findings recognized that there are graduating high school students who are working in the hotel service industry for experience to build careers.

However, Public Law 17-83 disallows a licensee, his agent, or employee to permit persons under the age of 21 to mix or serve alcoholic beverages at any on-sale establishments. That law would penalize violators with a fine of not more than $1,000 and even be possibly imprisoned for not more than one year or both.

H.B. 21-48 now heads to the Senate for discussion.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-013, Rev.1

AGINGAN PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-013, Rev.1 Agingan Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **July 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Proponents shall comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 2, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM — OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO. 1
June 20, 2019
ITB19-GOV-083

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ROLL-OFF TRUCK WITH CABLE HOIST for the TINIAN TRANSFER STATION

1. Fourth paragraph: The pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled for July 3, 2019, 10:00 a.m. ChST at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail.com or Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at esb.cip@gmail.com no later than July 12, 2019, 4:30 p.m. ChST.

2. Fifth paragraph: Sealed bids must be marked **ITB19-GOV-083 Supply & Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist for the Tinian Transfer Station**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive , Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time on July 29, 2019. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, July 29, 2019, and must be transmitted via facsimili to (670)664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service of the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 29, 2019, and must be received no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, on August 7, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., ChST, August 8, 2019. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders from outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, on July 29, 2019.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

#MeToo puts justice within reach of alleged victims who were long brushed aside

The most thunderous booms of the #MeToo movement have come when clusters of women all point at the same powerful men. A chorus of allegations rises from a Chicago music studio or a Palm Beach mansion, and accusers are finally heard.

R&B star R. Kelly faced new federal charges last week alleging he schemed to sexually exploit young girls, paid to recover child-sex tapes and pressured witnesses before a trial that ended in his acquittal a decade ago. Dozens of women have accused Jeffrey Epstein of rape and assault in a bombshell case that led to the resignation of U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta on Friday, following outrage over his handling of a plea deal with Epstein years ago when Acosta was a U.S. attorney in Miami.

Both Kelly and Epstein say they are not guilty of the accusations against them.

The dramatic developments in these long-running sagas offer yet another sign that #MeToo has upended the imbalance of power that long kept men on high perches and their victims in the shadows. Accusers say these men used money and fame to lure girls who were troubled, homeless or who needed money, only to rape and otherwise abuse them. The Miami Herald reported that most Epstein accusers came from disadvantaged families, single-parent homes or foster care, and some had experienced tragedy and abuse at tender ages. "We had no family and no guidance," one said. Kelly's alleged victims have been described as "among the most vulnerable in our society."

#MeToo prepared the ground for these women to be taken seriously. Their stories have rocked the halls of power amid a cultural shift in how revelations are received by the public and prosecutors.

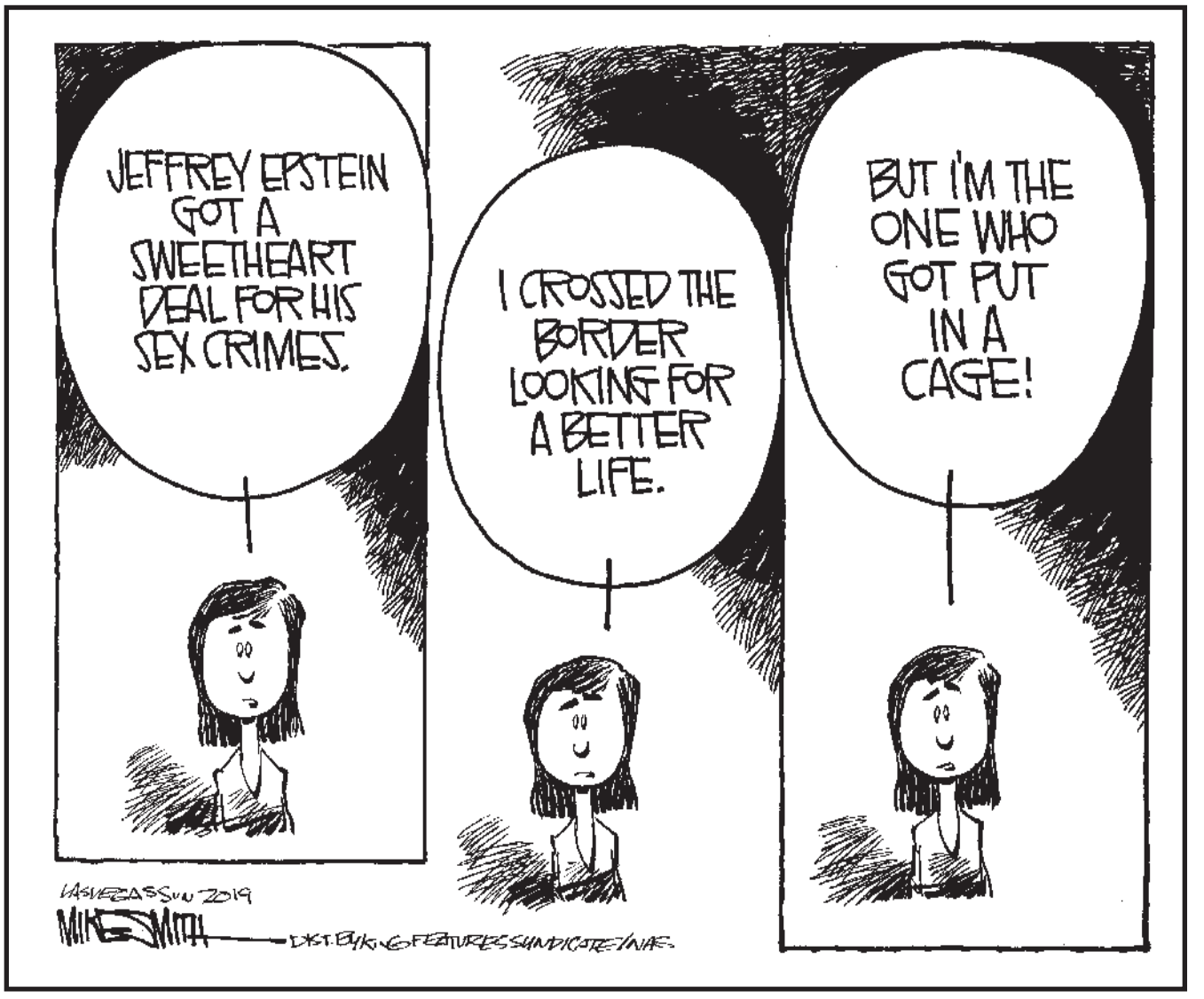
No one is hanging a Mission Accomplished banner. Accusers still face harassment. The new allegations against Kelly identify a victim named only as J.P., though Jerhonda Pace has spoken publicly. "His fans were livid when they saw 'J.P' on every count," she tweeted. "They already started bothering me."

While #MeToo has helped bring men to account for crimes and misdeeds in many arenas, it's clear women still need the support of one another. One more voice really does matter against attempts to shush, bully, rationalize or shame their stories away.

"This was not a 'he said, she said' situation," retired Palm Beach Police Chief Michael Reiter told the Miami Herald of the earlier Epstein case. "This was 50-something 'shes' and one 'he'—and the 'shes' all basically told the same story."

That ratio shouldn't be necessary, yet today it's undeniably powerful. Each high-profile conversation presents another chance for the public to recalibrate its attitude toward accusers—and for survivors to see that they can seek justice without having to go it alone.

(c)2019 Chicago Tribune



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Opposition to $15-million line of credit

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a letter the Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement sent last July 10, 2019, to the 21st CNMI Legislature, the Marianas Public Land Trust, and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. The letter was signed by Liana M.S. Hofschneider, president/founding member.

This letter is submitted on behalf of Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement to express our opposition to the intention of House Bill 21-044 titled, "To pledge as security the interest income distributions from the Marianas Public Land Trust pursuant to Article XI, Section 6(d) of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution and to authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to withhold and to retain Net Annual Distributable Interest Income starting Fiscal Year 2020 and beyond as necessary, to create a credit facility to address bond obligations and retirement settlement fund payments."

The goal of this legislation intends to instantly create a $15-million-and-more credit facility at Marianas Public Land Trust to ensure that there are adequate funds at the disposal of the CNMI Department of Finance for the purpose of paying "bond obligations and retirement fund settlement payments."

It further stated that the "amount at issue are not intended to be used for operations, whatsoever." But both bond obligations and retirement fund payments are in fact "operation expenses" of the CNMI government; and both are government obligations. This is purely semantics between what is government obligation payments and what is government operation expenses. They are, in fact, one and the same at this juncture.

Additionally, the Legislature, in collaboration with the administration and the Marianas Public Land Trust, are working in tandem to ensure that this legislation accomplishes two goals: First, to pledge all future MPLT "interest income" that would be distributed to the CNMI General Fund pursuant to Article XI, Section 6 of the Constitution as security of the $15 million "line of credit" to the Department of Finance. And to create a "credit facility" at MPLT for the CNMI government for bond obligation payments and retirement fund settlement payments.

Second, this legislation intends to ensure to provide protection clause to the MPLT trustees of their fiduciary prudence, strict scrutiny and due diligence to make careful and prudent investment and protection of the trust proceeds from the lease of public lands and interests earned from its investments. And to indemnify MPLT trustees from any lawsuits arising from their decision to extend to the CNMI government this $15 million "line of credit" and "credit facility" to assure the government's obligation to the NMI Settlement Fund and bond obligation payments, and for "whatsoever," which are not only operational expenses but are also government debt.

Both of these intentions dictated in this legislation purports to infringe and/or violate the CNMI Constitution Article XI, Section 6 on MPLT; and "public debt limitation" by the CNMI government for operation purposes under Article X, Section 4, "Public indebtedness may not be authorized for operating expenses of the Commonwealth government or its political subdivision."

It is important to note that some of the MPLT trustees and some members of the Legislature, including their immediate parents and siblings are, in fact, retirees. This causes a potential conflict of interest on their part—MPLT trustees and legislators—in participating to deliberate and to approve this act where their due diligence and voting privileges are in conflict as retirees, immediate families of retirees and legislators; and are also beneficiaries of the NMI Retirement Fund Settlement Fund.

It is unconscionable how the members of this Legislature, administration and the MPLT trustees would acquiesce to an intentional violation of the CNMI Constitution where this legislation purports to provide for a language that would entitle MPLT "to withhold interest income as necessary for fiscal year 2020 and beyond toward debt service of principal and interest in the event that the Commonwealth Department of Finance does not fully repay the loan."

Further, H.B. 21-044 would authorize MPLT to withhold all interest income distribution exclusive for the "debt service of principle and interest from the Commonwealth Department of Finance each fiscal year until the debt to MPLT is fully retired and satisfied." The legislation states that this shall be a "line of credit for bridge capital and other needs."

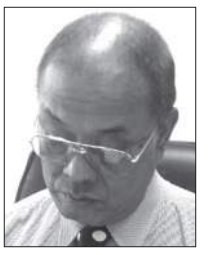
Furthermore, this enabling act also provide vague language as to the details of the MPLT's "credit facility" for the CNMI

See OPPOSITION on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Signifikasion sayonara

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

Hiniyuñg fiñkas Japones guine dañkulu na fondu ha lagnus ginen ekonomian iya Marianas. Ti menus ke $7 Biyon pesus este na maliñgu.

Lamayot patte guine na fondu apas setbisiu yan suetdun empleau. Mahuchum bisnis niha. Poresu na maliñgu $7 biyon pesus.

I man-namase` gi este na mattiru i empleau siha ni mana fan basta gi che`chu` niha. Makat kontra bandan obligasion familia tat kumu apas guma, kareta, magagu, neñkanu` yan otru siha nesessidat. Kikidi estake para u fan mañoda` otru offisiu gi parehu na suetdu.

Kontodu i gobietnu ha hatsa banderan agaga` pot este na chinatsaga gi halacha. Menus fondu gi kahan iya Marianas. `An presisu maribahan setbisiu yan oran cho`chu` siempre uma-implenta sin ditension.

Trabiha ti klaru haf` sessu motibu na halagnus i Japones fiñkas niha guine. Siempre tali`e dispues haf` motibu na manhanau. Magahet na i $7 biyon pesus ni mana` suha guine siempre hana` ke`yau ekonomiata sin ditension.

Este na sinisede ti umahñau menus mas fondu para usun nesessidat setbisiun publiku yan cho`chu` para i tautauta siha. Dos sigidu ha luñu` guine na disision: apas setbisiu yan monedan familia `nai sumasaunau apas guma`.

■■■

Hinanau: Hafa motibu na fuetsau man-huyuñg i Japones ginen Marianas? Gi mismu tiempu namanman i mafa` taya` ni manma-elihe i masusede ni kumakatsu kinalamten iya Marianas.

In` kemprende kuantu na sapet este kontra i dikiki` na ekonomian tano`ta? Guaha che`chu` miyu establesau para u kubre este na hoyun sapet?

Siña in` esplika publikamente ennau na planu? Ha sustene kualidat linala` tauatuta-ta i planun miyu? Lastima i mañiñila` kandet i gima` lau kau guaha tautau?

■■■

Rininueba: I maribahan ekonomia kontodu siempre empleau siha man-inafekta oran niha gi che`chu`. Primera obligasion hegsu` I Deni` i kinalamten familia diariu ni marepresesenta.

Komprendiyun na makat este na kontrariu pot ni haf` siña machogue para uma-ataha hiniyuñg bisnis siha guine. Kuestion: magahet na ti in` siente este na kinalamten hiniyuñg bisnis guine? Na manu `nai man-estaba hamyu?

■■■

Amot: Mas ke 50-mit na tautau mantai gima` giya Los Angeles. Mahutu` tento` yan fina` guafag siha gi kantun chalan ya mafa` lugat niha. Hihot atmariau i mayot taimanu para areglaña ni nuebu na machalapun siuda.

Mahusga haf` tinattten este na chinatsaga. Kanaha` todu mangai offisiu ya mauleg suetdun niha. Tat ti siña mafahan gi nesessidat familia. Pues haf` taimanu na ni guma` ti siña ma-usune?

Machalapun sagun usun un` amot binenu (opioid) `nai i presiu sige hulu`. Uttimoña malachai fondun familia guine na amot ya ni neñkanu` ti siña mafahan. Usun este na amot umaminasa manadan familia gi enteru iya California.

■■■

Suetdu: Pa`gu na sakan siempre i kongresson iya America u dibate mapropone na hatsadan suetdu esta $15 gi ora na "minimum wage" ni ma-i`ina ni US Congressional Budget Office.

`An felis, mansuette ni para u fan mahatsa suetdun niha. Gi mismu tiempu kanaha` parehu lokue` na numerun empleau u fan tai che`chu`. Este i dos masusesede sigidu gi kada mahatsa i suetdu. Kau guaha kualidat na adelantu gi linala` familia, siempre tali`e dispues.

■■■

Asuntu: Homlu` na kinalamten bisnis solu manera `nai siña tana` guaha mas kontribusion tax (aduana) para nesessidat-ta siha guine. Lau taya` nuebu na bisnis fuera ke haf` gaige pa`gu.

U guaha mohon adelantu guine na patte gi ge`fena? Sin nuebu na fondun bisnis makat ta kubre gastun nesessidatta siha para mona.

Uniku remediu i nuebu na fondu `sino fuetsau ma-utut `nos kuantus setbisiu kontodu oran empleau taimanu ha mensiona i gobietnu. Makat na asuntu piot `nai hokog fondu gi kahan iya Marianas ni inafuetsas maribahan ekonomia.

Uttimu biahe `nai huli`e didog na chinatsaga guine gi tutuhun sisienta siha na sakan gi hiniyuñg i Navy. Manadan cho`chu` manmahuchum. Tinaka` tiempu i chumahlau (TTG) para u establese nuebu siha na offisiu dispues.

Diberas, makat i fuetsau ta bira hit tatte gi gualu` yan tasi `nai tatutuhun man-mananum yan pinegsai para mantension familia. Lau ayu ha` solu na appottunidat guaha gi bandan satbasion.

■■■

Pinadese: Kanaha` todu familia guine pumadese hiniyuñg i Navy `nai ma-utut manadan cho`chu`. Kontodu famaguon mañaunau gi fuetsau na inaligau mantension familia. Todu bali guihe na tiempu pot satbasion.

Guaha umusune man-mandalalag peskadot `an pueñge. Guaha man-e`pañglau, ayuyu, binadu, `sino manog hatsadu gi halum tanu`. Namagof animun todu gi halum makat na hinanau familia.

Kontodu man-uman kestat 90 libra na simientu gi Saipan Stevedoring Company in` usune dos dias sigidu sin deskansu pot tres pesus gi ha`ane. Lau magofyu` lumi`e na guaha plantau neñkanu gi lamasan sena.

OPPOSITION

From Page 10

government. Nevertheless, the "Legislature expresses its intent that the interest, security, and repayment terms of the credit facility will be worked out in the agreement between MPLT and the Department of Finance through an arm's length negotiation that takes into consideration their respective abilities relative to the credit facility, their respective fiduciary duties, and their respective long-term goals."

The language in this act that includes "through an arm's length negotiation" is ambiguous and abusive public policy making language.

"In simplest terms, the Legislature hereby agrees and consents that MPLT shall withhold from its annual remittance to the central government an amount equal to any unpaid principal and interest that the Department of Finance might be delinquent at the end of any fiscal year (e.g. Sept. 30 of any year) during the term of the agreement."

So, in a nutshell, through this act, the Legislature, the administration and the MPLT trustees intend to ensure that any and all land lease payments transferred from DPL to MPLT; and all interest earned by MPLT from its investments, which are also trust monies belonging to the beneficiaries, shall be earmarked exclusively for the repayments of the CNMI obligations for its bond payments and for its retirement settlement fund payments, and other operating expenses as the CNMI government deems fit to expend the beneficiaries trust funds.

Additionally, this act continues to provide the Legislature, the administration and the MPLT trustees to transfer beneficiaries funds received by MPLT to the CNMI government for the benefit of all citizens and not for the exclusive benefit of the intended beneficiaries, which are, according to the CNMI Constitution, persons of "Northern Marianas descent."

In fact, this issue of NMI descent is a questionable classification that directly infringes upon the Taotao Tano, the Chamorros who are, in fact, the native inhabitants of the Mariana Islands for over 4,000 years that has not been resolved by the CNMI government.

Lastly, we have to be reminded that the CNMI casino law was passed and implemented to satisfy the federally mandated case of the retirement fiasco of past financial mismanagement by elected and appointed officials, taking note that some of these officials are also retirees themselves and some are currently serving the CNMI government in different capacity.

The 40,000 square meters of land that included public lands were leased out to the casino investors to construct their casino, which is a sacred ancient Chamorro burial ground where close to 1,000 of our Chamorro ancestors were buried more than 1,000 years ago. All to ensure that the government's obligation to the close to 3,000 retirees were satisfied.

The results of these fiscal mismanagement decisions created and continues to create anxiety among retires and their beneficiaries of whether or not they will continue to have pension checks to receive as promised.

More importantly, the implementation of the CNMI casino law also causes a major moral and ethical irresponsibility by the CNMI government, the foreign investors from China (Imperial Pacific International), Scientific Consultants Services, Inc., and others who participated in the approval to make a sacred ancient Chamorro village and burial ground the site of the Best Sunshine Grand Mariana Casino and Imperial Pacific Resort where over 400 (plus 200-plus) ancient Chamorro remains were disinterred from their grave site; and continue to be displaced since 2015.

This ancient village and burial ground of Anaguan was established dated A.D. 1100 or 990 years ago. The destruction and desecration of our cultural and historical heritage as Taotao Tano at this site is lost forever. Our children and the future generations of Chamorro children will never have the opportunity to walk on this pristine landscape or to pay tribute and homage to their ancestors' heritage.

It is our intention that when opposing a position of the government, that we also provide for an alternative solution. That said, we propose that the CNMI Legislature provide for a legislation to authorize the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Pacific Islands Development Bank to provide for a credit facility and/or a loan guaranty for the payments of the bond obligation and the retirement fund settlement fund payments, or any other government operation expenses a deemed necessary today and in the future.

CDA is a government financial institution that has provided numerous loans to the CNMI government (e.g. CUC); and the Pacific Islands Development Bank or PIDB where the CNMI is a current member and shareholder of the bank. Shareholders and members also include the governments of the Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Island of Guahan, and the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap).

There are millions of dollars that have been invested into PIDB where some of the members of the Legislature, past and present, including retirees, and those in the administration have benefitted through PIDB's loan programs. There are several alternative ways to solve the CNMI's current financial debacle. The government must focus to find other ways to meet its financial needs as they are elected and appointed to do so.

Most importantly, the DPL and MPLT trust funds are not intended to pay for government operating expenses as the Legislature sees fit or wishes because there are potential constitutional violation of the applicable laws governing the trust fund public policy rationale; and as also stated in this proposed legislation.

To this end, in the last 40 years or since the establishment of the CNMI constitutional government, there has not been any resolution to address and protect the Chamorros, i Taotao Tano, who are the true and rightful owners of these lands for 40 centuries or over 3,500 years.

Again, the Matua Council opposes the passage of H.B. 20-044 in its entirety because it intends to further displace and mismanage fund proceeds intended for the benefit of both DPL and MPLT's intended beneficiaries.

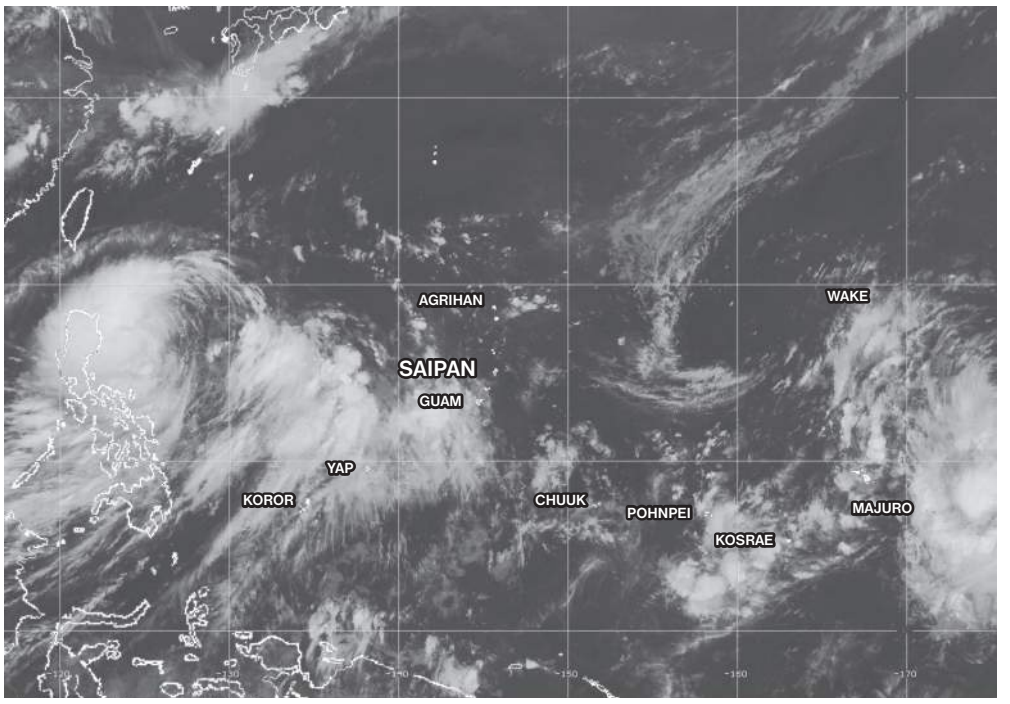
To contact the council: P.O. Box 505906, Saipan, MP 96950. Email: chamorrocouncil@gmail.com.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches across the Marianas near Tinian this morning. Radar and satellite imagery showed a few showers and thunderstorms over the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	57° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	97° / 73°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91° / 84°
Honolulu	Sunny	88° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
New York	Thunderstorms	92° / 77°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	84° / 61°
Busan	Thunderstorms	75° / 73°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	86° / 66°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	95° / 75°
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 55°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	86° / 72°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	81° / 73°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	95° / 78°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:16 AM	LOW TIDE	1.38
6:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
2:20 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.08
9:26 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.96

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:54 AM	7:11 PM
Thursday	-	6:46 AM	7:57 PM
Friday	-	7:36 AM	8:40 PM
Saturday	-	8:26 AM	9:20 PM
Sunday	-	9:14 AM	9:58 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	4:00am	7:00am	3
7C3451	4:00am	7:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 5
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	10:00pm	3:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	3:05am+1	4

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Seafood galore at Fisherman's Wharf

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

There are dozens of Chinese restaurants on Saipan, but none of them really fancy themselves as a seafood place.

Enter Fisherman's Wharf Fresh Seafood, Steak, Lobster, and Grill Restaurant at the heart of Garapan.

The brainchild of Cindy Zhang, Fisherman's Wharf was originally supposed to open four years ago in 2015, but finally made its long-awaited debut last July 10.

"I've always wanted to open a Chinese restaurant that specializes in seafood. Fisherman's Wharf is a realization of that dream and I'm really happy we finally opened after waiting so long," said Zhang, who has made Saipan her home the past 17 years.

Zhang starts her day early by driving from one fishmonger to another along Beach Road to find the freshest seafood on island.



MARK RABAGO
Fisherman's Wharf Fresh Seafood, Steak, Lobster, and Grill Restaurant finally opened last July 10.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The abalone dish is a must try.

"It's the only way you can be sure your seafood is fresh, aside from having a boat and catching the fish yourself," said Zhang.

With meticulous attention to the quality of seafood Fisherman's Wharf gets, Zhang also sources lobster and other seafood from Tinian and Rota suppliers.

So far, the bestsellers at Fisherman's Wharf are its signature steamed lobster dish. Also, must-tries are its abalone, beef broccoli, and sweet and sour pork.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Chinese restaurant's signature steamed lobster dish.

$8 lunch buffet

To introduce Fisherman's Wharf to the island community, the restaurant has an ongoing promotion that would make it the most affordable full buffet on island.

At $8 for customers with local ID ($10 for tourists), Fisherman's Wharf's lunch buffet offers 10 dishes that range from seafood to chicken, beef, dumplings, hotpot, mapo tofu, fried rice, and more. It comes with a complimentary iced tea and orange juice plus desserts like fresh fruits.

"I just want to attract a lot of customers that's why we're offering this $10 lunch buffet, which has a 20% discount for locals so it goes down to $8," said Zhang.

Fisherman's Wharf is located along Royal Palm Avenue in the tourist district of Garapan at the back of Capricciosa and Tony Roma's. It's open from 10:30am to 2pm and 5:30pm to 10pm daily.

The restaurant comfortably sits 100 but can accommodate up 180 diners. It is also open for private parties and corporate functions. For more information and reservations, call 285-6134.

Mnuchin says budget deal with Pelosi is 'very close'

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell vs. hardliners in the White House as lawmakers pursue a deal on federal spending and the debt. And the hardliners, wary of further increases to federal spending, appear to be losing.

Talks between Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin appear to be progressing. Mnuchin on Monday told reporters, "I think we're very close to a deal," though he cautioned that "these deals are complicated."

Mnuchin says increasing the $22 trillion debt limit needs to be done this month to avert any risk of a U.S. default on obligations like bond payments. He said he doesn't think there will be a government shutdown when the budget year ends Sept. 30, nor does he think "either party or anybody wants to put the credit of the United States government at risk."

Previous negotiations toward a budget deal had included White House conservatives like Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. But Mnuchin is taking the lead for the administration in the talks with Pelosi, as the speaker doesn't have a productive relationship with Mulvaney.

Mnuchin and Pelosi spoke again Monday evening.

The talks increasingly hinge on a durable, powerful and familiar political coalition: GOP defense hawks demanding bigger Pentagon budgets and Democrats seeking equal treatment for domestic priorities.

Three previous fiscal deals over the past years, conducted when Democrats were in the House minority, were greased by lawmakers' appetite for both guns and butter—to the dismay of deficit hawks relegated to Washington's endangered species list. Now, after winning back the House, Pelosi has greater leverage, especially because of the need to increase the government's borrowing cap.

"We gave them an obscene amount of money just two years ago," said Hazen Marshall, a former Senate GOP budget and leadership aide. "And now they want more on top of that. There's a never-ending desire to keep on ramping it up."

Lawmakers are negotiating an increase to spending "caps" for federal agency budgets, along with separate must-do legislation to increase the government's debt limit. The negotiations are opaque, but appear to be guided by the concept of "parity" in spending increases for defense and nondefense agency budgets, based on a public exchange of letters between Mnuchin and Pelosi over the past few days.

Trump signs order to make American-made goods more American

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday that will require federal agencies to purchase products using more American components.

The order strengthens the standards that federal agencies must follow under the Buy American Act, which creates a preference for American-made goods.

Trump said his order will gradually boost the percentage of U.S. components for qualifying American-made products from 50 percent to 75 percent. He said the threshold would increase to 95 percent for iron and steel products.

"The philosophy of my administration is simple. If we can build it, grow it or make it in the United States, we will," Trump said.

A trade group representing the steel industry called Trump's action "another positive step" in ensuring the industry remains competitive.

"Strong domestic procurement preferences for federally funded infrastructure projects are vital to the health of the domestic steel industry," said Thomas J. Gibson, president and CEO of the American Iron and Steel Institute.

Analysts said the executive order will require the federal government to pay more for many products.

"While it might be a good headline for the administration, it's taxpayers that will end up paying for this policy," said Bryan Riley, director of the conservative National Taxpayers Union's Free Trade Initiative.

"When we artificially reduce the pool of qualified suppliers or the variety of eligible supplies that can satisfy procurement requirements, projects cost more, take longer to complete, and suffer from lower quality," said Dan Ikenson, director of trade studies at the libertarian Cato Institute.

The president signed the order during an annual White House "Made in America" showcase. Manufacturers from all 50 states were represented.

Trump has made it a priority to boost U.S. manufacturing. Even so, the nation's trade deficit has continued to grow under his watch, widening to a decade-long high of $621 billion in 2018.

Trump said foreign countries have been allowed to "steal our jobs and plunder our wealth" in previous administrations. He also used the event to highlight tariffs he's imposed on China, saying China has paid a big price economically as a result.

Dave Drabkin, former chairman of a federal panel that recommended improvements to the defense acquisition system, said it would likely take a minimum of nine months to complete the rule necessary to enact Trump's directive.

He called the action "positive for American companies, negative for foreign competitors" but noted that other nations could undertake similar actions to protect their domestic companies.

Trump also acknowledged that it's unclear how a new trade agreement he negotiated with Canada and Mexico will fare in the Democratic-controlled House. Democrats want to strengthen enforcement of the agreement's labor and environmental obligations.

"We have to get the Democrats to pass it. They may or may not depending upon how they feel politically," Trump said. "It's all politics, unfortunately."

Democratic leaders may be pressuring their rank-and-file not to express support for his trade agreement "because they think that's a victory for Trump," he said.

"But if it doesn't happen, I have a better plan, OK? So don't worry about it," Trump said without elaborating.

Nation

Churches jump into action with threat of immigration sweeps



AP
People holds hands as they chant at a rally before the start of a march in opposition to the Trump administration's plans to continue with raids to catch immigrants in the country illegally, Sunday, July 14, 2019, in the Queens borough of New York.

CHICAGO (AP)—As a nationwide immigration crackdown loomed, religious leaders across the country used their pulpits Sunday to quell concerns in immigrant communities and spring into action to help those potentially threatened by the operation.

A Chicago priest talked during his homily about the compassion of a border activist accused of harboring illegal immigrants, while another city church advertised a "deportation defense workshop." Dozens of churches in Houston and Los Angeles offered sanctuary to anyone afraid of being arrested. In Miami, activists handed out fliers outside churches to help immigrants know their rights in case of an arrest.

"We're living in a time where the law may permit the government to do certain things but that doesn't necessarily make it right," said the Rev. John Celichowski of St. Clare de Montefalco Parish in Chicago, where the nearly 1,000-member congregation is 90 percent Hispanic and mostly immigrant.

While federal immigration officials were mum on details, agents had been expected to start a coordinated action Sunday targeting roughly 2,000 people, including families, with final deportation orders in 10 major cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Miami.

Activists and city officials reported some U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in New York and Houston a day earlier, but it was unclear if it was part of the same operation. The Houston advocacy group FIEL said two people were arrested there Saturday. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio confirmed there were three incidents involving ICE on Saturday, but agents didn't succeed in rounding up residents. Speaking at a news conference Sunday in New York, de Blasio called the operation "a political act" by President Donald Trump that had nothing to do with enforcing the law.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan would not answer questions about the operation at an unrelated briefing in Washington on Sunday on the emergency management response to Hurricane Barry.

The renewed threat of mass deportations has put immigrant communities even more on edge since Trump took office on a pledge to deport millions living in the country illegally. While such enforcement operations have been routine since 2003, Trump's publicizing its start, and the politics surrounding it, are unusual. Trump first announced the sweeps last month then delayed to give lawmakers a chance to address the southern border.

With Sunday as the anticipated start, churches have been trying to strategize a response.

Cardinal Blase Cupich, the archbishop of Chicago, wrote a letter to Archdiocese priests this month saying, "Threats of broad enforcement actions by ICE are meant to terrorize communities." He urged priests in the Archdiocese—which serves over 2 million Catholics—not to let any immigration officials into churches without identification or a warrant.

The Rev. Robert Stearns, of Living Water in Houston, organized 25 churches in the city to make space available to any families who wanted to seek sanctuary while they sorted out their legal status. A dozen churches in the Los Angeles areas also declared themselves sanctuaries.

Attendance at church services on Sunday varied.

The early morning crowd for Spanish-language Mass was only slightly less than usual at St. Clare de Montefalco, where stacks of paper advising immigrants of their rights during immigration arrests sat on card tables outside the sanctuary. Multiple attendees, seemingly nervous about the threatened sweeps, declined interviews.

Final blast of torrential rains unleashed by weakened Barry

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Tropical Depression Barry spared New Orleans and Baton Rouge from catastrophic flooding, but even as it weakened and moved north through Arkansas, its trailing rain bands swamped parts of Louisiana with up to 17 inches (43 centimeters) of rain and transformed part of the Mississippi Delta into "an ocean."

As of Monday evening, with the center of the storm about 105 miles (170 kilometers) northwest of Little Rock, the National Weather Service said flash flood watches remained in effect in southeast Texas through the lower Mississippi Valley.

Forecasters said the storm was expected to produce up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain—and in isolated spots as much as 8 inches (20 centimeters)—across Arkansas, western Tennessee and Kentucky, southeast Missouri, and northwest Mississippi.

No fatalities or serious injuries reported from Barry.

Some of the earliest fears that the storm posed didn't play out: A shift in its path decreased the possibility of major Mississippi River levees being overtopped at New Orleans, where catastrophic levee breaches along canals devastated the city after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. And the torrents of rain forecasters had said were possible—portending repeats of catastrophic Baton Rouge area flooding in 2016—didn't happen.

"This was a storm that obviously could have played out very, very differently," Gov. John Bel Edwards said. "We're thankful that the worst-case scenario did not happen."

But the storm was still a huge headache for many. Levees were overtopped along waterways in some coastal parishes. More than 90 people were rescued because of high water in at least 11 parishes, Edwards said.

And the problems persisted long after Saturday's landfall—when Barry came ashore as a weak hurricane. Deluges hit parts of southwest Louisiana late Sunday into Monday morning.

Calcasieu Parish emergency director Dick Gremillion estimated northern parts of the parish got 17 inches (43 centimeters) in a few hours. Two people had to be rescued from swamped cars and 19 others were moved from residences threatened by high water, he said.

In Oakdale, Louisiana, Mayor Gene Paul estimated 14 inches (36 centimeters) fell overnight. He spent part of Monday gathering information on businesses and homes that took on water.

In Evangeline Parish, north of Lafayette, KLFY television showed scenes of water-covered streets and flooded cars in the town of Ville Platte.

For much of Monday a continuous line of showers extended from the southwest to the northeast.

"Please don't drive through these flooded areas," Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso pleaded with motorists.

"I noticed our rivers coming up real quick," Mancuso said in an interview aired on KPLC-TV . "It's just very serious right now."

In Mississippi, forecasters said 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain had fallen in parts of Jasper and Jones counties by Monday, with several more inches possible.

"The South Delta has become an ocean," Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant wrote on Twitter on Monday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Sister of man who killed Chinese scholar: He was 'gentle'

PEORIA, Ill. (AP)—The sister of a former University of Illinois student convicted of killing a Chinese scholar told a jury deciding whether he should be executed that he was a "very gentle person" who never raised his voice. Andrea Christensen was the last witness that lawyers for Brendt Christensen called to the stand Monday. The defense plans to rest its case in the penalty phase on Tuesday. Earlier Monday, Christensen's mother, Ellen Williams, testified that the 2017 slaying of Yingying Zhang was "horrible" and she feels "bad." But she said it would be devastating if her son receives the death penalty. Christensen did not testify. The federal jury that found him guilty last month now must decide his punishment. Rebuttal witnesses will be called Tuesday. Closing arguments are scheduled for Wednesday.

Prosecutors want Mexican megachurch leader held without bail

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors have asked a judge to hold the leader of a Mexican megachurch without bail on charges of child rape and human trafficking. Naasón Joaquín García, leader of La Luz del Mundo, is currently held on $50 million bail—believed to be the highest ever set in Los Angeles County. He has pleaded not guilty. García and two co-defendants appeared in Los Angeles Superior Court Monday for a bail review hearing. Law enforcement officers testified about sexual images and videos discovered on his electronic devices. One also testified that $5 million has been raised for Garcia's defense. Defendants can typically post 10% of their bail to be freed. Defense attorneys say Garcia doesn't pose a flight risk and they want his bail reduced. The judge is expected to rule Tuesday.

1 dead, 15 hurt in California home gas explosion

MURRIETA, Calif. (AP)—A natural gas explosion destroyed a Southern California home, killed a gas company worker and injured more than a dozen other people Monday, authorities said. The explosion shortly after noon sent up a wall of fire and smoke and rocked nearby homes before the gas was shut off and the fire doused more than an hour later. Photos from the scene showed the home virtually torn apart, with flames burning about 20 feet high. Firefighters and Southern California Gas Co. workers went to the home after a report that a contractor had damaged a gas line. Firefighters arrived about an hour before the blast, which occurred shortly after noon. Murrieta Deputy Fire Chief David Lantzer said 15 people were injured, including three firefighters.

Asia

Duterte signs law punishing sexual harassment

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has signed a bill into law penalizing a range of acts of sexual harassment including catcalling, wolf-whistling and persistent telling of sexual jokes, which pro-women's groups have accused him of committing.

Philippine officials released on Monday a copy of Republic Act 11313, known as the "Safe Spaces Act," which Duterte signed in April. The reason for the delay in its public release was not immediately clear.

The bill's main author, opposition Sen. Risa Hontiveros, has called the law a "massive victory" against a growing culture of rude sexist actions.

"This is a big victory and a major push back against the growing 'rude culture' in our streets and communities," Hontiveros said. "With this law, we will reclaim our streets from sexual harassers and gender bigots and make public spaces safe for all."

The law defines a range of offensive acts, including catcalling, wolf-whistling, intrusive gazing, cursing, misogynistic acts, sexist slurs and persistent telling of sexual jokes in public, including in streets, workplaces, vehicles, schools, recreational areas, bars or online.

Other offenses include stalking, exposing "private parts, groping or any advances, whether verbal or physical, that is unwanted and has threatened one's sense of personal space and physical safety."

Restaurants, bars, cinemas and other places of recreation are required to install clearly visible warning signs against would-be violators, including a hotline number to allow rapid reporting of offenses, and to designate an officer to receive complaints or apprehend perpetrators.

"It is the policy of the state to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights," the law says.

Punishments include fines and imprisonment depending on the gravity of the offense. Foreign violators would be deported after serving a jail term and paying fines.

Duterte, 74, a longtime mayor before winning the presidency in 2016, has been known for speeches laden with expletives and sexual jokes. Activists have repeatedly accused him of sexism and misogyny but supporters have defended him by saying he has introduced regulations to protect and uphold women's rights.

Last year, Duterte publicly ordered troops to shoot female communist guerrillas in the vagina to render them "useless." A left-wing human rights group, Karapatan, reacted by saying Duterte had distinguished himself "as a frothing-in-the-mouth fascist who incites the worst violations of international humanitarian law."

Duterte was also criticized for kissing a married woman on the lips in front of a large Filipino audience in South Korea last year. When Duterte asked if she could explain to her husband that the action would be just a joke, she said yes, and the president leaned in and kissed her as the audience erupted in cheers.

"President Duterte acted like a feudal king who thinks that being the president is an entitlement to do anything that he pleases," Hontiveros said then.



AP

In this June 17, 2019, file photo made available by the Malacanang Presidential Photo, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his speech during the 121st Philippine Navy Anniversary at Sangley point, Cavite province, Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Quake damages buildings on Bali, other Indonesian islands

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP)—An earthquake shook Bali and other Indonesian islands Tuesday, causing panic and damaging homes and other buildings, but there were no immediate reports of casualties. The magnitude 5.7 quake was centered at sea 82 kilometers (51 miles) to the southwest of Denpasar on Bali at a depth of 91 kilometers (57 miles), the U.S. Geological Survey said. Indonesia's geophysics agency said the quake didn't have the potential to cause a tsunami. The national disaster agency posted photos on its Twitter account showing a damaged house and mosque in Banyuwangi in East Java and a damaged Hindu temple in Bali. Video showed damage to an ornate entranceway in Nusa Dua, an area home to high-end resorts in Bali. The main hospital in Denpasar evacuated patients, some attached to intravenous drips, to the hospital grounds, television footage showed. Numerous schools and hotels were also evacuated. "While having breakfast suddenly everything in the room swayed very strongly," said George Stephen, an Australian holidaying in Bali's Kuta area. He said guests fled the hotel in panic but returned after about 15 minutes.

Pakistan says 22 missing in flash floods in Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Heavy rains triggered flash floods in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, leaving at least 22 people missing and feared dead, Pakistan's minister for disaster management in the disputed territory said Monday. Ahmed Raza Qadri said the flooding late Sunday also caused a great deal of destruction and damage in the village of Lesswa in Neelum Valley, Ahmed Raza Qadri said. Rescue workers had been unable to find the 22 people swept away by the waters, including two soldiers and 11 members of the Tableeghi Jamaat religious group, Qadri said. Saeedur Rehman, a disaster management official, said efforts were being made to reach people stranded in their homes in the areas cut off by the flooding. The disputed mountainous region of Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both countries in its entirety.

Australian police identify remains of missing French tourist

SYDNEY (AP)—Australian police have identified the remains of a French tourist who went missing on a beach about five months ago along with a British companion as they vacationed in New South Wales on the country's eastern coast. Police Superintendent Paul Fehon, of the New South Wales State Police, said Monday that a DNA test confirmed that three bone fragments found on a beach in the area belonged to 21-year-old Frenchman Erwan Ferrieux. Ferrieux's 20-year-old companion, Englishman Hugo Palmer, is still listed as missing. Police think they may have drowned while swimming. "DNA comparison of the three bones that were located in early June have confirmed that they did come from the same male person. That DNA analysis has also confirmed that it came from a DNA comparison to the vehicle that was utilized by the two missing backpackers at the time," Fehon told reporters. An air, sea and land search was conducted at the time but failed to find the two. Police are still examining another human bone fragment found on a beach.

Thai police seize over a ton of crystal meth in raids

BANGKOK (AP)—Police in Thailand said they have seized more than a ton of crystal meth and over 10 million methamphetamine tablets in a series of drug raids this month, amid increased production and use of the drugs in Southeast Asia.

Thai authorities often make several large seizures a year of methamphetamine and other drugs, usually arresting low-level traffickers and drivers.

Police said in statements Sunday and Monday that they arrested eight people for trafficking over 5 million methamphetamine pills, 600 kilograms (1,323 pounds) of crystal meth, 15.4 kilograms (34 pounds) of heroin and 51 kilograms (112 pounds) of ketamine. The drugs were discovered Friday in a pickup truck hidden under fruit baskets and at a trafficker's home.

Police said they seized 459 kilograms (1,012 pounds) of crystal methamphetamine last week that they suspect originated from neighboring Myanmar. The drugs were found in the back of a pickup truck covered under a large green canvas.

In Chiang Mai province, 563 kilometers (350 miles) north of Bangkok, police said a firefight between officers and drug traffickers broke out last Wednesday night while officers were tracking the traffickers in a forest.

Police said they found the dead body of one drug trafficker Thursday lying next to a pistol, in a case in which they seized around 5 million methamphetamine tablets, around 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of crystal meth and 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of ketamine, as well as a pistol and a cellphone.

In a separate case also last Wednesday, police arrested six people for trafficking drugs to southern Thailand. Police said they seized 58 kilograms (129 pounds) of crystal meth that was found hidden in a secret compartment traffickers had made to store the drugs in a pickup truck.

Police also seized 898,000 methamphetamine tablets on July 1 at a pickup truck that traffickers had abandoned.

Australian police said in June that they seized a record 1.8 tons of methamphetamine at the Melbourne waterfront that was hidden in stereo speakers shipped from Bangkok.

The U.N.'s anti-drug agency said in March that production of methamphetamine is skyrocketing in Southeast Asia, with prices dropping and usage expanding.

World

‘Chatgate’ scandal throws Puerto Rico’s governor into crisis

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Nearly two years ago, Hurricane María exposed the raw dysfunction of Puerto Rico, collapsing long-neglected infrastructure and leaving several thousand dead on Gov. Ricardo Rosselló’s watch. Last week, two of his top former officials were arrested by the FBI on corruption charges.

But the scandal that is threatening to buckle the boyish 40-year-old governor centers on a profanity-laced and at times misogynistic online chat with nine other male members of his administration in which some of the U.S. territory’s most powerful men act like a bunch of teenagers. The leak of at least 889 pages of the private chat has sunk Rosselló into the deepest crisis of his career.

In the chats on the encrypted messaging app Telegram, Rosselló calls one New York female politician of Puerto Rican background a “whore,” describes another as a “daughter of a bitch” and makes fun of an obese man he posed with in a photo. The chat also contains vulgar references to Puerto Rican star Ricky Martin’s homosexuality and a series of emojis of a raised middle finger directed at a federal control board overseeing the island’s finances.



AP

Citizens riot near the executive mansion demanding the resignation of Gov. Ricardo Rossello, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Monday, July 15, 2019.

For many Puerto Ricans still recovering from one of the United States’ worst-ever disasters, on the back of the island’s biggest public financial collapse, the scandal analysts and ordinary people are calling “Chatgate” or “Rickyleaks” has proven to be too much.

Thousands of protesters marched in the capital for a third day Monday to call for Rosselló’s resignation. Police tried to disperse the marchers with pepper spray in front of the Fortaleza governor’s residence, which was protected by barricades.

The leaders of the U.S. territory’s house and senate said they weren’t planning impeachment proceedings, but an influential association of mayors from Rosselló’s pro-statehood party said he had lost their support. Puerto Rican artists Benito A. Martínez Ocasio, known Bad Bunny, and René Pérez, known as Residente, both said on Twitter they planned to return to Puerto Rico to join the protests. Playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda, whose production of “Hamilton” on the island is mentioned in the chats, called them “a very disturbing portrait of how this Administration operates.”

Even if Rosselló survives until election day next year, it seems clear to many observers that he has been profoundly weakened and less able to deal with crises ranging from the island’s bankruptcy proceedings to its continued efforts to receive federal funding to help recovery from María.

Late Monday, Rosselló released a statement saying he respected the protests and was taking their message into account.

“Unfortunately, despite responsible calls for peaceful demonstrations by many participants, a few others decided to damage public property and assault public officials who tried to preserve order and defend the security and rights of all,” he said.

Chatgate erupted a day after Rosselló’s former secretary of education and five other people were arrested on charges of steering federal money to unqualified, politically connected contractors. Starting Thursday, an anonymous person or people with access to the chats leaked dozens of pages of them to two local outlets. On Saturday, Puerto Rico’s Center for Investigative Journalism published 889 pages.

Some Iranian women take off hijabs as hard-liners push back

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The simple act of walking has become a display of defiance for a young Iranian woman who often moves in Tehran’s streets without a compulsory headscarf, or hijab.

With every step, she risks harassment or even arrest by Iran’s morality police whose job is to enforce the strict dress code imposed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

“I have to confess it is really, really scary,” the 30-year-old fire-safety consultant said in a WhatsApp audio message, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions.

But she is also hopeful, saying she believes the authorities find it increasingly difficult to suppress protests as more women join in. “They are running after us, but cannot catch us,” she said. “This is why we believe change is going to be made.”

The hijab debate has further polarized Iranians at a time when the country is buckling under unprecedented U.S. sanctions imposed since the Trump administration pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers last year. It’s unclear to what extent the government can enforce hijab compliance amid an economic malaise, including a currency collapse and rising housing prices.

There’s anecdotal evidence that more women are pushing back against the dress code, trying to redefine red lines as they test the response of the ruling Shiite Muslim clergy and their security agencies.

An Associated Press reporter spotted about two dozen women in the streets without a hijab over the course of nine days, mainly in well-to-do areas of Tehran—a mall, a lakeside park, a hotel lobby.

Many other women, while stopping short of outright defiance, opted for loosely draped colorful scarves that show as much hair as they cover. Even in Tehran’s Grand Bazaar, frequented by many traditional women, most female shoppers wore these casual hijabs. Still, a sizeable minority of women was covered head-to-toe in black robes and tightly pulled headscarves, the so-called chador.

The struggle against compulsory headscarves first made headlines in December 2017 when a woman climbed atop a utility box in Tehran’s Revolution Street, waving her hijab on a stick. More than three dozen protesters have been detained since, including nine who are currently in detention, said Masih Alinejad, an Iranian activist who now lives in New York.

Despite attempts to silence protesters, public debate has intensified, amplified by social media.

Last month, a widely watched online video showed a security agent grab an unveiled teenage girl and violently push her into the back of a police car, prompting widespread criticism.

President Hassan Rouhani and Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have supported a softer attitude toward women who don’t comply with the official dress code. However, hard-liners opposed to such easing have become more influential as the nuclear deal is faltering.

EU slaps sanctions on Turkey over gas drilling off Cyprus

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union foreign ministers on Monday turned up the pressure on Turkey after approving an initial batch of sanctions against the country over its drilling for gas in waters where EU member Cyprus has exclusive economic rights.

The ministers said in a statement that in light of Turkey’s “continued and new illegal drilling activities,” they were suspending talks on an air transport agreement and would call on the European Investment Bank to “review” it’s lending to the country.

They also backed a proposal by the EU’s executive branch to reduce financial assistance to Turkey for next year. The ministers warned that additional “targeted measures” were being worked on to penalize Turkey, which started negotiations to join the EU in 2005.

Turkey’s Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu issued his own warning last week that his country would step up drilling activities off Cyprus if the EU moved ahead with sanctions.

Two Turkish vessels escorted by warships are drilling for gas on either end of ethnically divided Cyprus.

The EU ministers repeated the “serious immediate negative impact” that Turkey’s illegal actions are having on EU-Turkey relations and called on Ankara to respect Cyprus’ sovereign rights in line with international law.

They also welcomed the Cypriot government’s invitation to Turkey to negotiate the borders of their respective exclusive economic zones and continental shelf.

Turkey doesn’t recognize Cyprus as a state and claims 44% of Cyprus’ exclusive economic zone as its own, according to Cyprus government officials. Turkish Cypriots in the east Mediterranean island nation’s breakaway north claim another 25%.

Cyprus was split along ethnic lines in 1974 when Turkey invaded in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece. A Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence is recognized only by Turkey, which keeps more than 35,000 troops in the breakaway north. Cyprus joined the EU in 2004, but only the internationally recognized south enjoys full membership benefits.

Turkey contends that it’s protecting its rights and those of Turkish Cypriots to the area’s hydrocarbon deposits. Cypriot officials, however, accuse Turkey of using the minority Turkish Cypriots in order to pursue its goal of exerting control over the eastern Mediterranean region.

The Cypriot government says it will take legal action against any oil and gas companies supporting Turkish vessels in any repeat attempt to drill for gas. Cyprus has already issued around 20 international arrest warrants against three international companies assisting one of the two Turkish vessels now drilling 42 miles (68 kilometers) off the island’s west coast.

The Cyprus government has licensed energy companies including ExxonMobil, France’s Total and Italy’s Eni to carry out gas drilling in blocks, or areas, off the island’s southern coastline. At least three significant gas deposits have so far been discovered there.

Focus



President Donald Trump speaks during a Made in America showcase on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, July 15, 2019. AP

Polls show sour views of race relations in Trump's America

By HANNAH FINGERHUT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even before President Donald Trump's racist tweets toward four Democratic congresswomen of color, Americans considered race relations in the United States to be generally bad—and said that Trump has been making them worse.

On Sunday, Trump tweeted that the congresswomen should go back to the "broken and crime infested" countries they came from, despite the fact that all are American citizens and three were born in the U.S.

Since his election, polling has shown Americans wary of Trump when it comes to race. But views of the president, racism in the U.S. and what defines American culture vary significantly based on political alignment.

What polls show:

RACE RELATIONS IN THE TRUMP ERA

In January, a CBS News poll found nearly 6 in 10 Americans saying race relations in the country are generally bad.

It wasn't always that way. Positive views of the state of race relations in the country peaked with President Barack Obama's inauguration, after which 66% of Americans said race relations were generally good in an April 2009 CBS News/New York Times poll. But views started to sour in 2014 following a number of high-profile shootings of black men by police officers and have continued to be more negative than positive in the Trump era.

And Americans think Trump is contributing to the problem. A Pew Research Center poll earlier this year showed 56% of Americans saying Trump has made race relations worse.

Americans gave similarly poor assessments of the president's impact on specific racial, ethnic and religious minorities. Nearly 6 in 10 considered Trump's actions to be bad for Hispanics and Muslims, and about half said they were bad for African Americans, according to a February 2018 poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research .

That poll also found that 57% of Americans considered Trump to be racist.

RACE AS A POLITICAL FAULT LINE

Polls show stark differences in assessments of the state of race relations and Trump's impact by party identification, along with racial and ethnic identity and educational attainment.

In Pew's poll, fully 84% of Democrats said Trump has worsened race relations, while only about 2 in 10 Republicans agreed. About a third of Republicans said Trump has made progress toward improving race relations, while a quarter said he has tried but failed.

Majorities of Americans who are black, Hispanic and Asian said Trump has made race relations worse, compared with about half of white Americans. Among white Americans, views diverged by education—64% of whites with a college degree think Trump has worsened race relations, compared with 41% of those without.

RACIST LANGUAGE

Democrats in Congress immediately called out the president's comments on Sunday as racist and divisive, while many Republicans have remained silent.

Polling shows Democratic and Republican Americans fundamentally disagree on the way people should approach offensive language in the country.

Eighty-two percent of Republicans feel that too many people are easily offended over language today, according to a poll conducted in May by Pew Research Center, compared with about half as many Democrats who said the same. A majority of Democrats said people need to be more careful with their language.

Since Trump's election, most Americans think it has become more common for people to express racist views, and 45% said it has become more acceptable as well, according to Pew's February poll.

Majorities of Democrats said it has become both more common and more acceptable. Among Republicans, 42% said it has become more common and 22% said it has become more acceptable.

DIVERGING VIEWS OF AMERICA'S IDENTITY

Throughout his presidency, Trump has stoked racial and ethnic division building on his campaign promise to secure the border and country. In 2017, Trump instituted a travel ban restricting entry into the U.S. for people from five predominantly Muslim countries. Earlier this year, the president declared a national emergency to appropriate billions of dollars in funds from government agencies to expand the U.S.-Mexico border wall. And most recently, Trump moved on Monday to halt protections for most Central American asylum seekers.

Trump's response to the firestorm signaled that he thinks it's a winning stance for him. "It doesn't concern me because many people agree with me," Trump said.

In an AP-NORC poll from February 2017, half of Americans said the mixing of culture and values from around the world is an important part of America's identity. Fewer—about a third—said the same of a culture established by early European immigrants.

But partisans were divided over these aspects of the nation's identity. Nearly half of Republicans, but just about a quarter of Democrats, saw the culture of early European immigrants as important. By comparison, about two-thirds of Democrats, and about a third of Republicans, considered the mixing of world cultures important to the country's identity.

The AP-NORC poll also found 57% of Americans saying that the U.S. should be a country with an essential culture that immigrants adopt when they come. Eight in 10 Republicans preferred immigrants to the U.S. adapt to an American culture, though a similar share said they thought recent immigrants have not done so.

Good Housekeeping

Fixing a messy house can help relationships

By JUDI LIGHT HOPSON, EMMA H. HOPSON, and TED HAGEN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Are you upset about the toys, books, clothes and other stuff strewn about your house? Do neglected sinks, bathtubs, and floors give you a depressed feeling?

Most of us feel much better when our homes are clean, sparkling, and ready for guests to show up. If yours isn't, don't despair.

A busy lifestyle is forcing most of us to do less cleaning, stay on the computer a lot, and fight for a moment to relax or enjoy family time.

"I feel like a failure when my husband or kids can't find clean socks or clean towels," says a friend of ours we'll call Mary Beth. "I work a lot, so I feel like the grime is building up. It's affecting our happiness and our lifestyle. I'm drowning."

She goes on to say that tubs of toys, a garage full of junk, piles of clothes all over the place, and books piled next to chairs are destroying her spirit. "I feel like I need a shovel to dig my way out of this avalanche!"

Keep in mind that almost every person and every family experiences this problem sooner or later. But, the solution is not that hard. Start looking for five-minute chores you can do quickly and consistently.

All of us have a mess because we failed to do the five-minute chores. We let them slide. They built up. Now, they are showing up everywhere. Digging out is possible, and you can see results pretty quickly.

These tips can help:

■ Learn to spot two separate five-minutes chores in each room. For example, before you leave the kitchen, put dishes out of the drainer into the cabinet. Or, grab an armful of newspapers to carry to the recycle bin in the garage.



DREAMSTIME/TNS
Most of us feel better when our homes and spaces are clean and tidy.

■ Train yourself to straighten in short segments. Grab dirty towels in each bathroom and toss them into the laundry room. Quickly put fresh towels on the towel bars from the linen closet.

■ Declutter at every opportunity. While your shower water is getting hot, pull old razors and washcloths out of the shower stall. Throw them into the sink and deal with them after your shower.

■ Ask your family members to do five-minute chores. This includes these types of jobs: carrying the kitchen's garbage bag to the garage, going outside to grab the mail, dusting the TV cabinet.

"I used to mentally collapse looking at our messy house," laughs a nurse we'll call Carla. "Every chore seemed an hour long. When I stared tackling chores that took five minutes, the clutter started shrinking. Then, I could sweep or mop much faster. I could run the vacuum with the piles of stuff off of the floor."

Carla is right. Worrying about moving everything out of a room to clean is overwhelming. Looking at such a mountain of work makes us blame our spouse or children. We start to moan and whine because it seems like a gigantic problem. And, it is.

"Folding towels, throwing in one load of laundry, wiping out the fridge with a damp cloth, or sweeping off the front porch are small chores anyone can do fast," says a father we'll call Fred. "My wife and I try to do some chores while talking on the phone or waiting for dinner to cook.

"Once you convince yourself your five-minute chores are adding up," says Fred, "you'll form the habit of good housekeeping."

Judi Light Hopson is the Executive Director of the stress management website USA Wellness Cafe at www.usawellnesscafe.com. Emma Hopson is an author and a nurse educator. Ted Hagen is a family psychologist.

Pet owners have some tools to fight veterinary sticker shock

That cuddly new puppy can be pretty intimidating if pet owners consider the veterinary bills it might produce.

A pet's torn knee ligaments or a broken leg that needs surgery could cost a few thousand dollars. Even stitches to close a bite wound after a scrap with another dog can cost several hundred dollars.

Fortunately, pet insurance can defray some of these costs. But many U.S. pet owners don't have it.

Here are some tips for handling a big, unexpected vet expense.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES

Veterinarians may be able to suggest cheaper treatment options.

Cats often do best if they have surgery to repair a broken bone, said Gary Block of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. But some fractures may also heal if the pet owner is willing to confine the animal to a small crate for several weeks.

A second opinion also may be helpful. Care from another veterinarian may cost less—especially if the vet is in a small town—or they might be able to suggest a less expensive option. But prepare to pay a consulting fee to find out.

Veterinarians are used to dealing with financial worries and ultimately want to avoid something called "economic euthanasia," where a pet owner has an animal put down because they can't afford the bill to fix it.

"There are people who truly can't afford the care, and there are people who decide it's not a priority," Block said. "It is common enough and difficult enough that every veterinarian in the world is constantly looking for ways to address that issue."

SEEK FINANCIAL HELP

Many veterinarians will set up a no-interest payment plan, especially for customers who have been with them for a while, Block said. He also noted that big animal hospitals may have their own financial assistance funds to help customers.

The Humane Society also offers links to several funds. Some help animals with heart problems, others deal with cancer or are breed specific.

These funds may only be able to offer a few hundred dollars in help, so they won't put much of a dent in a particularly large bill.

The website Waggle lets pet owners raise money that gets sent directly to the veterinarian to pay bills.

"People are often willing to open their wallets to help," Block noted.

Pet owners also may be able to find discounted care through local animal shelters or veterinary schools. Eligibility for that may be based on income.

PRACTICE PREVENTION

Before getting a pet, prospective owners should research the animal they want, especially if they are considering purebreds. They are more likely to develop health problems. Golden retrievers are known for developing cancer as they age. Doberman pinscher can develop serious heart trouble.

"It bums me out when someone buys a French bulldog and then yells at me when their pet needs $2,000 of surgery because it's congenitally malformed skull prevents it from breathing normally," Block said.

After buying a pet, owners also should keep vaccinations updated. Block noted that a $20 vaccine could prevent a dog from coming down with an expensive illness.

Pet insurance also can protect against future bills, although it may come with a reimbursement cap and likely won't cover conditions or injuries that developed before the policy started. It can cost around $30 a month or less, depending on the animal.

Pet owners who don't opt for insurance should start a savings fund for future vet bills as soon as they get the animal, said James Serpell of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine.

"Keep it as a safety net in case you are faced with one of these massive bills," he said. "Otherwise you're going to be in trouble." ***(AP)***

The tastiest way to use up all your herbs (and it's not pesto)

By GENEVIEVE KO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

This time of year, tender herbs grow like weeds in gardens and come cheap in markets. The only downside is needing to use them up before the plants go to seed or before grocery store bunches go slimy. The most obvious options are pesto and tabbouleh, but meatballs are my favorite way to finish off my herbs.

Not only do leafy herbs add a bright freshness to smoky grilled meatballs, they also lighten the texture. A generous bunch of scallions do the same, as do oats. This gluten-free alternative to breadcrumbs brings a subtle sweetness to the meat mix.

Inspired by the kebabs and keftes of the Middle East, these meatballs include aromatic spices and a dip. While savory yogurt sauces are the classic pairing—and would taste great here—pureed avocado delivers a similar creamy coolness without any dairy. Blending in lots of herbs and lemon juice gives it enough nuance and flavor to work as a dip for anything else, such as chips or crudites.

The meatball recipe below can be varied according to your taste and whatever you have on hand. Keep the proportions the same, but use any tender leafy herbs. You can toss in some heartier herbs too; a teaspoon of minced thyme or rosemary would be nice. As for the spices, cumin and coriander are solid starting points, but allspice, Urfa biber, or mace would work too. And if you love spicy foods, stir some chile flakes right into the meatball mix and serve the meatballs with hot sauce.

Summer Herb Meatballs With Avocado Dip

30 minutes. Serves 4.

2 1/2 cups packed leafy green herbs, such as parsley, cilantro and mint

5 scallions, very thinly sliced

1/2 cup quick-cooking oats

1 large egg, lightly beaten

1 pound ground beef (80/20) or lamb

2 teaspoons ground cumin or coriander or a combination

Kosher salt

Aleppo pepper or other red chile flakes, for sprinkling (optional)

1 large ripe avocado, halved, pitted, and peeled

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice

1. Set up a charcoal grill for direct heat grilling or heat the burners of a gas grill on medium-high. (Alternatively, heat a large skillet or grill pan on a stove-top over medium-high heat.) If using bamboo skewers, soak 8 in a shallow dish in cold water.

2. Pulse 2 cups of herbs in a food processor until finely chopped. Or, chop the herbs by hand. Reserve 1 tablespoon sliced scallions.

3. Mix the oats, egg, beef, cumin, finely chopped herbs, sliced scallions and 1 { teaspoons salt in a large bowl with your hands until well blended. Roll the mixture into 24 balls (about 1 ounce each). Slide 3 balls onto each skewer.

4. Grill, turning once, until charred on the outside and cooked through inside, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a serving dish. Sprinkle with Aleppo pepper if desired. Let rest while preparing the sauce.

5. While the meatballs rest, puree the avocado, lemon juice, remaining 1 tablespoon sliced scallions, remaining half cup herbs, and 1 teaspoon salt in the same food processor used to chop the herbs. Or, you can finely chop the herbs by hand and smash and mix everything together until smooth. Transfer to a serving bowl and serve with the meatballs.

Make Ahead: The meatballs can be rolled, skewered, and refrigerated for up to 1 day. The avocado dip can be pureed, covered with plastic wrap, and refrigerated for up to one day.

Life & Style

Young 'Lion King' actors had Beyoncé-size shoes to fill

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The pressure was on for young actors Shahadi Wright Joseph and JD McCrary when they got word that they'd been cast as the voices of young Nala and young Simba in "The Lion King." Not only was it an ambitious remake of an iconic film, but it was their first major Hollywood project.

Then they found out that their characters adult voices would be done by Beyoncé Knowles-Carter and Donald Glover, and it took "just waiting to be king" to a whole new level.

But director Jon Favreau was confident that they could fill the "big shoes" of their adult voices for the film, which opens nationwide Thursday evening. Fourteen-year-old Shahadi, for one, had a pretty big advantage: At age 8, she played young Nala in the Broadway production. In fact, casting director Sarah Finn submitted only her name to be considered. Favreau was on board.



This July 10, 2019 photo shows Shahadi Wright Joseph, left, and JD McCrary posing for a portrait at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., to promote their film "The Lion King." AP

"She understood the role, she understood the music and she's got an incredibly powerful Broadway voice," Favreau said. "She's just this very unique talent."

JD, 11, was less of an obvious choice. He didn't have much of a resume in film work. Finn, who had helped find Neel Sethi for "The Jungle Book" years ago, had to cast a wide net to find her young Simba, from seasoned veterans to open call unknowns. Favreau said JD broke through as the frontrunner when he saw YouTube videos of him singing.

"He definitely had the right voice and a lot of personality as well," Favreau said. "He was somebody who was really interpreting songs and putting a lot of personality into it."

Then, as the filmmakers were getting ready to make the then-8-year-old JD an offer, they learned that he'd just collaborated with Glover on the Childish Gambino song "Terrified."

"Donald definitely vouched for JD and said he was great," Favreau said. "I felt there was something pre-ordained about (it)."

JD said getting that call was, "One of the biggest moments of my life."

The two young actors had the benefit of being able to record together in the studio, which doesn't often happen for animated films. It allowed them to riff and play off of one another's personalities.

"I feel like if I didn't work with JD we wouldn't have that chemistry on the screen," Shahadi said. "It would have been mindless actors just saying the lines and not actually feeling them."

She found it particularly liberating to be able to mess up and improvise in the studio. It was a stark contrast to performing for a live audience on Broadway, where she said you "cannot make a mistake."

Favreau also made sure that the young actors had a sense of the world they were inhabiting through a Virtual Reality demo that allowed them to see Pride Rock and the rest of the settings.

"The VR was really cool," McCrary said. "It was like your first sneak peek, but you were in it, you could feel it."

It's been three years since Shahadi and JD were cast, which for kids at that age can feel like a lifetime of waiting. But they've been busy. Both worked in other films released this year. Shahadi played the daughter of Lupita Nyong'o in Jordan Peele's "Us," and JD appeared in "Little" alongside Marsai Martin.

On the day after the world premiere in Los Angeles, both were riding high from finally seeing the movie on screen with a receptive audience, many of whom could be heard crying at key parts.

"I made a lot of people cry," JD said proudly.

And then of course there is the fun of being in proximity to so many stars.

"It was awesome! So cool!" JD said, nearly jumping out of his seat with excitement. "I was backstage with Chance the Rapper, Beyoncé, Jay-Z, Blue Ivy, Donald Glover, everybody!"

Shahadi said she was still recovering from meeting Beyoncé for the first time.

As for what's next, both are looking forward to more acting roles, and they even have a suggestion for the next one.

"I want to re-do 'The Wiz,'" JD said. He'd play the Scarecrow and Shahadi would be Dorothy.

"That would be dope," he said.

Australian model sentenced for airline flight disturbance

By ANDREW DALTON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

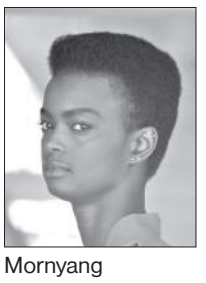
LOS ANGELES (AP)—An Australian model was sentenced Monday in Los Angeles to community service and probation for slapping a flight attendant and going on an obscene tirade during a flight, with a federal judge saying he believed she was deeply remorseful and did not deserve fines or prison time.

U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney sentenced Adau Mornyang to three years of probation and 100 hours of community service.

Prosecutors had sought a month in jail for Mornyang. But Carney said he believed she was truly sorry after she tearfully read a statement in court saying she is now receiving treatment for anxiety and depression brought on by childhood trauma, instead of self-medicating like she did at the time of the flight.

"I've learned to deal with my emotions and trauma in a proper way," Mornyang said as she stood crying with her arm around her lawyer, her usually long hair cropped to a short flattop.

The incident, she said, has "pushed me to have proper medical treatment."



Mornyang

She talked about the humiliation of hearing the recording of herself during the trial.

"I'll do what it takes to prove to the world that I am not that woman," Mornyang said, and asked the court for "forgiveness, kindness and mercy."

The 25-year-old, a native of South Sudan who migrated to Australia as a refugee at age 10, was convicted of felony interference with a flight crew and misdemeanor assault. She was acquitted of a third count of assaulting an air marshal.

Mornyang was nine hours into a Jan. 21 flight from Melbourne to Los Angeles and had apparently been drinking wine excessively when she began "yelling obscenities and racial slurs and flailing her arms," prosecutors said in their sentencing memorandum.

Her fellow passengers complained to the crew. But she only lashed out more when flight attendants attempted to calm her, and she slapped one of them. Several air marshals had to come out from undercover to help deal with her, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said in court Monday that Mornyang's statement of remorse said little about the passengers and crew whose flight she made so difficult.

But Carney welcomed the statement, and he said before sentencing that "I do believe she's remorseful and that she's committed to getting treatment to make sure this never happens again."

Carney said he had often sentenced terrorists, murderers and drug dealers, and that "those people need to be in custody," but not people like Mornyang.

"The trial process was punishment in and of itself," Carney said.

He added that her financial circumstances made the fine that would usually come with this crime untenable.

Mornyang is also required to submit to drug tests and receive mental health counseling throughout her three-year term.

She appeared relieved as the hearing ended. She did not talk to reporters outside court.

"I want you to have a wonderful life," the judge said after handing down his sentence. "I hope I never see you again."

Fox 2000 chief joins Sony after being jettisoned by Disney

NEW YORK (AP)—Elizabeth Gabler, whose Fox 2000 produced acclaimed literary adaptations like "Life of Pi" and "Hidden Figures" before being axed in the aftermath of the Walt Disney Co. acquisition, has found a new home at Sony Pictures.



Gabler

Sony on Monday announced a new production deal with the former Fox 2000 president and her entire Fox 2000 team. In the new multiyear venture, Gabler will develop and make movies for the studio beginning later this summer. The partnership also includes HarperCollins, whose catalog Gabler will mine for projects.

Fox 2000 had been expected to be retained by Disney after its acquisition of 20th Century Fox. But earlier this year, the Fox label became one of the most high-profile casualties of the deal. With an enviable record of successes including "The Devil Wears Prada," "The Fault in Our Stars" and "The Hate U Give," Gabler quickly became a sought-after Hollywood free agent.

The deal marks a reunion. Sony chief Tom Rothman led Fox during part of Gabler's tenure at Fox 2000. She was its president from 1999 until its shuttering in March. In a statement, Gabler called Rothman "my mentor, friend and inspiration."

Said Rothman: "Let's face it, no one makes more hits than Elizabeth. Trust me, I know."

Disney still has several upcoming Fox 2000 projects, including "The Art of Racing in the Rain," with Kevin Costner, and "The Woman in the Window," with Amy Adams.

Avenatti: R. Kelly paid $2M to silence girl he assaulted

By DON BABWIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this June 6, 2019 file photo, musician R. Kelly departs the Leighton Criminal Court building after pleading not guilty to 11 additional sex-related charges in Chicago.
AP

CHICAGO (AP)—Celebrity attorney Michael Avenatti said Monday that R&B singer R. Kelly paid $2 million to keep the alleged victim in a child pornography case off the witness stand during a 2008 trial that ended with his acquittal on all charges.

"R. Kelly bought his acquittal," Avenatti said at a news conference in which he provided details of what he said has been a yearslong effort by Kelly to prevent his sexual abuse of several girls from becoming public. He said Kelly paid at least one associate $100,000 to hunt down videos of him having sex with a minor that had gone missing.

Avenatti said he represents three alleged victims, three parents of victims and three associates of Kelly that he called "whistleblowers."

Avenatti faces his own mounting legal problems. The one-time lawyer for Stormy Daniels—who says President Donald Trump tried to pay her off after she had a sexual encounter with him before he became president—has been charged both in California and New York with stealing money from clients and attempting to extort money from sportswear maker Nike.

Avenatti's comments come just days after federal prosecutors announced they'd indicted Kelly in New York and Chicago on charges that he and his entourage recruited girls and young women to engage in illegal sexual activity and covered it up by paying and threatening witnesses and victims. The 52-year-old Kelly was arrested and remains in federal custody. He is scheduled to appear in court Tuesday for a bond hearing, during which prosecutors are expected to argue that he should remain locked up because he is both dangerous and a flight risk. His attorney has denied the allegations.



Avenatti

Much of what Avenatti said Monday had already been outlined in the indictments in more general terms.

Avenatti said two associates of Kelly turned tapes of the singer having sex with minors over to him, and that he turned them over to Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx's office earlier this year. He said Foxx's office turned those tapes over to federal prosecutors. A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago declined comment.

Avenatti's own legal problems raised questions about whether he is trying to help himself by aiding prosecutors in the Kelly case.

"He has a potential conflict of interest and the issue is not whether or not he gets a better deal (for himself) but whether he could get a better deal," said David Erickson, a former state appellate judge who teaches at Chicago Kent College of Law. "If I'm the judge I would explain to his clients the ramifications of how he might benefit at their expense and if they say 'I don't care,' then OK. And If I'm the prosecutor I would want to make sure the judge did that because I don't want the case to come back because he's got a conflict."

At the same time, Peter Henning, a former federal prosecutor who teaches law at Wayne State University, said there's nothing wrong with prosecutors in the Kelly case using whatever information Avenatti can provide them. "As long as you can verify the information provided, as a prosecutor I will take it from whoever it comes from."

Henning also said people who come forward with information do so for a reason. "It is designed to give them leverage in their case," he said. "Just coming forward out of the goodness of their heart, that doesn't happen."

But Avenatti said there's no connection between the two cases.

"There is no conflict. This is my job, I'm doing my job," he said, adding that he has daughters. "Whatever happens to me in connection with my own legal issues, so be it."

R. Kelly expected to appear for court hearing Tuesday

CHICAGO (AP)—R&B singer R. Kelly is expected to appear in a Chicago federal courtroom on charges that he recruited girls and women to have illegal sex with him and then covered up the crimes by paying and threatening the victims and witnesses.

Federal judges were supposed to meet Monday in Chicago to figure out how to proceed in the case that involves separate indictments out of Chicago and New York but that will be discussed Tuesday before Kelly is arraigned.

After that, a judge is expected to rule on whether Kelly can be released on bond in the Chicago indictment before facing the New York charges. Prosecutors want Kelly to remain in federal custody, where he's been since his arrest Thursday, because they say he's dangerous and a flight risk.

Popular YouTuber Emily Hartridge dies in accident

YouTube personality Emily Hartridge died in an accident, according to a statement posted to her Instagram account.

She was 35 years old.

"This is a horrible thing to have to say over Instagram but we know many of you were expecting to see Emily today and this is the only way to contact you all at once," the post read. "Emily was involved in an accident yesterday and passed away. We all loved her to bits and she will never be forgotten. She has touched so many lives it's hard to imagine things without her. She was a very special person."

The London Metropolitan Police said a woman was killed in a crash between an e-scooter and a truck, but did not release the woman's identity. The Guardian was the first to report that Hartridge, who is British, was the victim.

The Guardian also reported that it was the first fatal collision involving an e-scooter in Britain.

Hartridge was known for producing a series of YouTube videos called "Ten Reasons Why ..." which covered topics like relationships and mental health. She also worked as a TV presenter. ***(New York Daily News)***

Body cam catches Atlanta rapper, reality star in racist tirade during arrest

By TIA MITCHELL and J.D. CAPELOUTO
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

ATLANTA—A former rapper and reality star cursed at police and used racist language against an officer after he was arrested last month, according to newly released body cam footage.

The video shows Raymond "Benzino" Scott screaming anti-Asian slurs against one of the arresting officers as he was taken to jail for allegedly missing a court date.

Officers with the Brookhaven Police Department arrested Scott outside of his home on June 22. The rapper, producer and former cast member on "Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta" has had multiple run-ins with law enforcement over the years.

Police noticed Scott's car blocking traffic on Durden Road near Blackburn Park around 11 a.m. and decided to approach, according to a report obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Scott drove away and into a nearby apartment complex, but by then the officers had performed a search on his license plate and discovered there was a warrant for his arrest, police said.

The officers were identified in the report as T. Nguyen and K. Martinez.

The report said Scott became argumentative after an officer explained that the warrant was issued after he failed to appear in Brookhaven Municipal Court for a previous ticket for driving without proof of insurance.

"He kept saying it was harassment because of his race," the report said.

The body cam footage was uploaded to YouTube by the account Real World Police and confirmed by Brookhaven police.

Scott began by telling officers he had stopped on Durden Road to drop off his son, and he said he had no knowledge of a prior ticket issued in the city.

After he was put in handcuffs and placed in the back of a squad car, Scott dropped a stream of expletives and screamed racist slurs that have been used against Asian people. He alternated between insulting the officers, asking for more air-conditioning and threatening legal action.

"I didn't do nothing, and I swear to God if that ticket ain't valid" a lawsuit will be filed, Benzino yelled.

Nguyen's body camera remained active as he drove Scott to the DeKalb County jail, recording his voice from the backseat.

After teen is slain, photos of her corpse circulate online

By RYAN TARINELLI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A 17-year-old girl with a small social media following in upstate New York was killed by a man she'd met recently on Instagram, who then posted photos of her corpse online, police said Monday.

The gory pictures were redistributed widely, including by online posters who made light of or celebrated the teen's death.

Others urged people to stop circulating the images, which had appeared in online chat sites including 4chan and Discord.

On Monday, police identified the slain girl as Bianca Devins, of Utica, New York, and said that her alleged assailant, Brandon Clark, was being held on a second-degree murder charge. It was unclear whether Clark, who lived in Bridgewater, New York, had a lawyer who could comment on his behalf.

Discord users who saw the photos Sunday morning alerted police. Officers were trying to find the teen when the 21-year-old Clark called 9-1-1 himself to report what he'd done, Utica's public safety department said in a statement.

Officers who tracked the call found Clark stabbing himself in the neck, causing injuries that required hospital treatment. Devins' body was beneath a tarp nearby, police said.

Devins and Clark met on Instagram about two months ago, police said.

Initially, they were online acquaintances only, but the "relationship progressed into a personally intimate one," police said. "They had spent time together, and were acquainted with each other's families."

Austin Butler to star as Elvis in Baz Luhrmann-helmed biopic

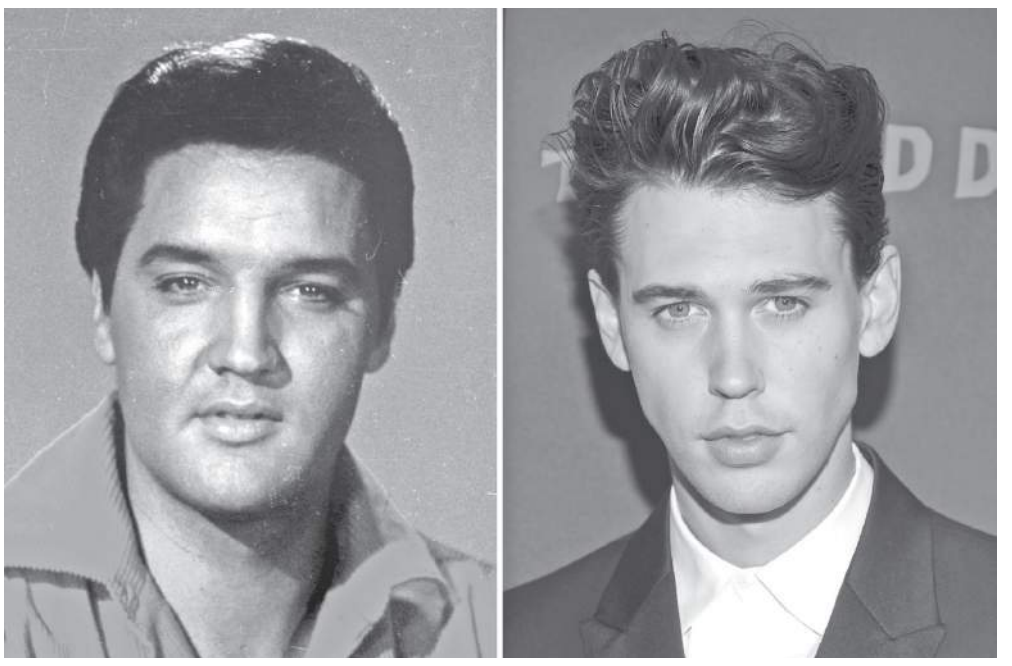
NEW YORK (AP)—Baz Luhrmann's Elvis Presley biopic has found its King.

After a competitive casting contest, 27-year-old actor Austin Butler has been cast as Presley. Ansel Elgort, Harry Styles and Miles Teller all reportedly tested for the role ultimately won by Butler, who last year appeared in the Denzel Washington Broadway revival of "The Iceman Cometh."

Luhrmann says in a statement that through "a journey of extensive screen testing and music and performance workshops, I knew unequivocally that I had found someone who could embody the spirit of one of the world's most iconic musical figures."

Production is to begin early next year on the Luhrmann-directed film. Tom Hanks co-stars as Presley's manager Colonel Tom Parker.

Butler also has a role in Quentin Tarantino's upcoming "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood."



AP

This combination photo shows singer-actor Elvis Presley in a 1964 photo, left, and actor Austin Butler at the premiere of "The Dead Don't Die" in New York on June 10, 2019.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Oliver Stone writing memoir, scheduled for 2020

NEW YORK (AP)—Oliver Stone has some memories to share, not all of them happy. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt announced Monday that it had acquired a memoir by the Oscar-winning filmmaker. The book, currently untitled, is scheduled for Fall 2020. Stone is known for such provocative films as "Platoon," "JFK" and "Born On the Fourth of July." According to the publisher, he will center on his early years, including his time in Vietnam. Winner of an Academy Award before age 35, he will also recount his "overindulgences borne of youthful success." Stone has an acknowledged history of drugs and alcohol and has been married three times. Stone, 72, said in a statement that he has been reassessing his life and decided that all memories are to be cherished, "pleasant or not."

Diddy's 'Making the Band' officially coming back to TV

NEW YORK (AP)—Diddy's "Making the Band" is officially coming back to TV. The music mogul announced Monday that the hit series, where he discovered groups including platinum-sellers Danity Kane, would return to MTV in 2020. "Making the Band" made its debut on ABC in 2000 when Lou Pearlman, who managed the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, launched the show and formed the boy band O-Town. Diddy re-vamped the show for MTV in 2002 and discovered the rap group Da Band. Diddy also launched the careers of Day 26, Donnie Klang and Danity Kane—who released two No.1 albums under his Bad Boy Records—on the show. Diddy went viral last week when he asked his social media followers if he should bring back the series. The global casting call for the show begins Monday across social media platforms.

Sen. Chris Murphy writing book on gun violence

NEW YORK (AP)—One of Washington's leading advocates for gun control, Sen. Chris Murphy, has a book coming out next year. Murphy's "The Violence Inside Us: A Brief History of an Ongoing American Tragedy" will be published Jan. 20, Random House announced Monday. Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, said in a statement that the book was an exploration of the roots of violence and "a deeply personal journey" of his own battle against gun violence. His journey begins with the 2012 shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, when a gunman killed 20 first graders and six adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School. Murphy added that he hopes his book will lead to a "fresh, less polarized conversation."

'Pearson' suits Gina Torres perfectly

By RICK BENTLEY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES—Gina Torres lives by one rule: Never say never.

It looked like the New York native had left the legal world of "Suits" behind in 2016 after the midseason finale of the USA Network series when her character quit the firm. Torres had signed on to join the cast of the ABC drama "The Catch" for its second season and had tired of traveling from Los Angeles to Toronto, where "Suits" filmed.

When "The Catch" ended after the second season, Torres kept working until she got the call to reprise the role she had played on "Suits," but this time as the star of the series. That production, "Pearson," debuts with back-to-back episodes Wednesday on USA Network.

"I didn't walk away from 'Suits' saying 'never' because clearly, I kept coming back a few times through the course of the last few seasons. But I didn't expect the character to be the star of a new show," Torres says. "What's really so wonderful about this show, I get to have this second chance with Jessica Pearson that you now get to see a fully realized human being, a fully fleshed out woman, and what it costs her to stay at the top of her game, to maintain relationships, interpersonal relationships, whether they're professional or whether they're personal.



Torres

"We never really got to see that. It was always in service to the firm. But now she's in service to her own life, and what does that mean and how does that look?"

In the spinoff, the recently disbarred Pearson adjusts to the dog-eat-dog world of Chicago politics. She is the newly appointed fixer for Mayor Bobby Novak (Morgan Spector), which puts Pearson in major moral dilemmas.

It was easy for Torres step back into the role that had earned her an ALMA Award, an Imagen Award and the National Hispanic Media Coalition's Award for Outstanding Performance in a Television Series and the Visionary Award from the LA Femme Film Festival. She was ready to continue playing the character because there was so much more she wanted to do with the role. It's an added bonus the series is filmed in Los Angeles so she doesn't have to travel so much.

"We know so little about Jessica in the world of 'Suits.' She didn't have a family of her own. She didn't have an enduring relationship. There were still so many doors that were unopened into her psyche, into her personal life," Torres says. "The one thing you saw when she exited the firm was that she wanted to get back to what mattered to her. The reason she got into law in the first place.

"We are asking you to go along this journey with her as she figures out who she is now. I don't feel like I am playing the same character in a lot of ways."

Torres knows about playing wildly different characters, having starred in high-concept shows like "Alias," "Angel," "Cleopatra 2525" and "Firefly."

The long list of guest starring credits for Torres includes "24," "The Shield," "Gossip Girl," "Hannibal" and "Flash Forward." She's also voiced the roles of Vixen in "The Justice League" series and Superwoman in "Justice League: Crisis on Two Earths." Film credits include "The Matrix Reloaded" and "I Think I Love My Wife."

Although she's worked in both TV and film, Torres will always look at television as her first acting love. The one thread that runs through all her work is she's drawn to playing strong and powerful women.

Parents unsure how to begin having 'the talk' with son

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: I have a young, preteen grandson who is asking his parents "facts of life" questions. They are bewildered about how to give him the information. I'd be grateful if you could share details of the publication you have for this purpose and how to get it.

GRANDMOM IN CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MICH.

DEAR GRANDMOM: Many parents find the subject of sex embarrassing, so they postpone discussing it with their children. They forget that children today mature earlier and are exposed to sexual images and references more often than those of previous generations.

When "The Talk" finally happens, it's often too late. It is important that parents begin discussing subjects like alcohol, smoking, drugs, sex and family values well before their children are tempted to experiment. My booklet "What Every Teen Should Know" was written to help parents break the ice and get the conversation going. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. His parents should review it before starting a discussion to deal with their son's questions that might arise.

Among the important topics included are: "How old must a girl be before she can get pregnant?" "How old must a boy be before he can father a child?" Other topics, including peer pressure, dating, STDs, drugs and alcohol, are also covered. My booklet has been used to promote discussions by educators and religious leaders and distributed by doctors' offices. The more information his parents can provide, the better prepared your grandson will be to make informed choices in the future. I hope my booklet will be a helpful tool for facilitating the many conversations his parents will have with their son.

DEAR ABBY: My son recently died in an accident. His death was unexpected and shocking, and we are all heartbroken, especially his girlfriend. I know he was having doubts about their relationship because he told me, but she doesn't know.

We have grown very close since the accident. She says things like, "'Danny' and I were meant to be." It makes me think I should tell her the truth. But I'm afraid if I do, it will affect our friendship and break her heart again. What do you think? Should she know or not?

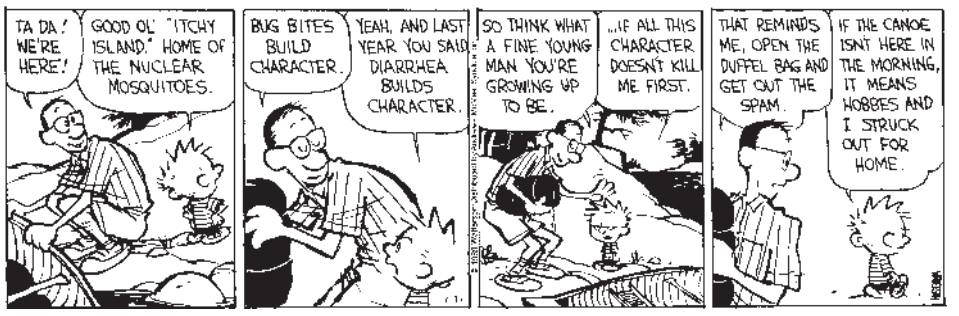
TREADING LIGHTLY

DEAR TREADING: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your son. Because the tragedy is recent, I see nothing to be gained by shattering her illusion. If you feel she's isolating herself, remind her that Danny would want her to go on with her life as do you. Assure her you will always be there for her if she needs you.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mahal preceder
4 Actress Dawber
7 Audio equipment brand
8 Head lights?
10 Ulan —
11 Sports venues
13 1991 Robin Williams movie
16 Constitution letters
17 Seaboard
18 Fib
19 Ergo
20 Univ. division
21 Ocean bottom
23 Poets of yore
25 Landed
26 Debtors' notes
27 — Paulo, Brazil
28 Identified
30 Cushion
33 Pennsylvania city
36 Soup legume
37 Chicago NFL team
38 Bird or King
39 Paris airport
40 Teeny
41 "Platoon" locale

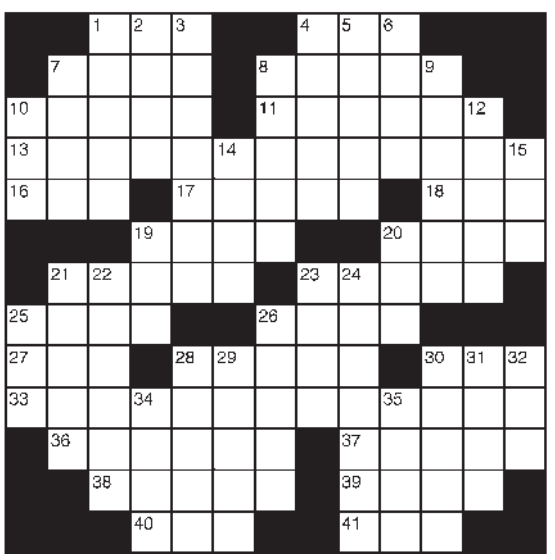
DOWN

1 Carries
2 Dating from
3 City near the Dead Sea
4 Whittles (down)
5 Warning
6 Monastery man
7 Scrooge's cries
8 Laugh track sounds
9 Went by windjammer
10 A/C stat
12 Salon sounds
14 Tart
15 Retrieve
19 Youngster
20 ER workers
21 Thrash about
22 Toy train maker
23 Dutch word that means "farmer"
24 Birders' society
25 Request
26 Hint at
28 — Dame
29 Blazing
30 Song of praise
31 Ethereal
32 "— Kapital"
34 Squirrels do it
35 Antitoxins

Solution time: 23 mins.

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S	■	N	U	C	U	S	■	O	S	T	E	O
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I	A	N	■	■	T	U	G	■	■	K	E	N
S	■	N	C	F	R	F	■	F	B	O	N	Y
■	■	■	A	G	E	■	F	O	E	■	■	■
A	P	I	N	G	■	S	I	N	K	E	R	S
S	■	N	■	S	T	E	R	■	I	S	E	E
A	S	S	N	■	E	T	S	■	N	A	D	A
P	A	T	E	■	E	S	T	■	D	U	O	S

Yesterday's answer 7-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Luke Bryan, 43; Carey Hart, 44; David Hasselhoff, 67; Donald Sutherland, 84.

Happy Birthday: Keep better tabs on your money, spending habits and cost-cutting measures this year, and you will save enough to enjoy some of the luxuries you've been denied in the past. Discipline and hard work, coupled with originality and being receptive to change that will lead to personal improvements, are encouraged. Romance should be a priority. Your numbers are 6, 11, 16, 24, 30, 39, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Get out and do things that will broaden your intellect and keep you updated with technology and current affairs. Knowledge is power, and when it comes to fighting for something you want, it will be your path to success. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Hold your thoughts until you are sure you have your facts straight. Being prepared will make the difference between success and failure. Don't waste your time arguing with someone who will never see things your way. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Make your position clear. If you pussyfoot around, no one will know what you want. A passionate approach to life and how you want to live will discourage others from meddling in your affairs. Be open and prepared to take action. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make the effort, and you will reap the rewards. It's up to you to choose the first step or to plan for the future. Be grateful for what you have, but realize your potential. Face a challenge head-on. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Refuse to let others upset you. Be prepared to do what makes the most sense to you. Showing confidence and consistency is the best way to counter any opposition you face. Be receptive, but make the decision that's right for you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An emotional issue concerning someone you live with or deal with regularly shouldn't be allowed to stand in your way. Get involved in functions or projects that are geared toward making improvements. A group effort will pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Choose to take the high road when someone is challenging to deal with. Focus on personal growth and improving the way you take care of your responsibilities. Offering positivity and tolerance will be enough to stifle someone who is demanding. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take note of your options, and choose to take the path that is clear-cut and without controversy. Arguing over petty issues is a waste of time that could be spent developing something you really want to pursue. Romance is recommended. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Fixate on something that will pay off. If you keep giving too much and getting too little in return, it won't be long before you become fed up. Invest your time and money in your skills and future. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Offer to do what's reasonable. Keep plans that might not work out a secret for now. A change at home will make your life easier, and sharing something you enjoy with someone you love will bring you closer together. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put your energy to good use. Deal with issues that are affecting your relationship with a friend, peer or lover. Honesty may not be welcome, but it will help you figure out where you stand and what you need to do. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You are best to keep your thoughts and plans to yourself. Refuse to let anyone goad you into something you don't want to do or cannot afford. Personal improvements or helping someone who appreciates you should be your goal. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, engaging and original. You are passionate and productive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	5	8						
9			6			3		
1		6		3		5	4	
	3			6				
		2	9		1	6		
				2			5	
		3		5		4		2
	7				4			3
6						9	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	2	8	4	3	7	9	6	5
9	7	4	6	5	2	3	1	8
6	3	5	9	8	1	2	7	4
5	6	7	1	2	4	8	9	3
2	8	1	3	9	5	6	4	7
3	4	9	7	6	8	5	2	1
8	1	3	2	4	9	7	5	6
4	9	6	5	7	3	1	8	2
7	5	2	8	1	6	4	3	9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ARCHIE HARRISON MOUNTBATTEN-WINDSOR Solution: 7 letters

W	I	L	L	I	A	M	C	D	N	A	L	G	N	E
L	L	A	W	N	R	O	C	T	N	A	E	T	A	K
S	E	L	R	A	H	C	O	E	H	O	N	E	U	B
N	E	E	U	Q	H	A	W	E	R	R	N	A	R	W
R	M	L	L	S	O	S	R	G	K	I	O	I	I	E
E	O	A	A	Ⓑ	L	D	E	R	L	U	T	N	L	D
D	U	Y	C	W	Ⓞ	E	L	N	I	I	D	T	E	R
O	N	O	E	R	P	Ⓨ	I	L	S	S	S	I	A	A
M	T	R	I	N	S	H	Z	H	O	A	O	E	S	C
X	B	A	B	Y	T	M	A	R	C	U	B	N	S	H
E	A	S	O	N	E	R	B	H	T	R	I	B	E	E
S	T	T	E	G	R	W	E	R	D	N	A	S	H	L
S	T	V	H	Y	E	T	T	O	L	R	A	H	C	R
U	E	A	N	N	E	P	H	I	L	L	I	P	U	A
S	N	O	T	R	A	B	M	U	D	R	A	W	D	E

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Andrew, Anne, Archie, Baby, Bear, **Birth.** Boy, British, Castle, Charles, Charlotte, Cornwall, Diana, Doria, Duchess, Duke, Dumbarton, Earl, Edward, Elizabeth, England, George, Harrison, Harry, Kate, Lace, Louis, Meghan, Modern, Mountbatten, News, Phillip, Polo, Queen, Rachel, Royal, Seventh in Line, Shawl, Sussex, Throne, Toys, Wales, William, Windsor

Yesterday's Answer: Toxicity

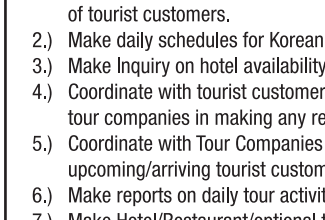
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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, based on job specifications and local codes. Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, or other components. Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety of system. Use a variety of tools or equipment, such as power construction equipment, measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps. Inspect electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
- AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE IN USING MEASURING DEVICES, POWER TOOLS AND TESTING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS OHMMETERS, VOLTMETERS, OSCILLOSCOPES, AMMETERS, OR TEST LAMPS.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) H. E. Mechanics $8.14 to $9.00 per hour

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, and conveyors, used in construction, logging, and surface mining. Repair and replace damaged or worn parts. Test mechanical products and equipment after repair or assembly to ensure proper performance and compliance with manufacturers' specifications. Operate and inspect machines or heavy equipment to diagnose defects. Read and understand operating manuals, blueprints, and technical drawings. Dismantle and reassemble heavy equipment using hoists and hand tools.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
- AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE IN HOIST, HAND TOOLS AND TESTERS.

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GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) Maintenance Technicians $8,11 to $8,50 per hour

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
- AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE IN USING HAND AND POWER TOOLS SUCH AS CORDLESS POWER DRILLS, POWER CIRCULAR SAWS AND PULLERS.

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HANA TOUR SERVICE INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(14) TOUR GUIDES
JOB DUTIES:
Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months' work experience as tour guide
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character
- Able to read an speak in Korean language

Salary: 9.23/hr
These job opportunities are temporary full-time position

Interested Applicants can email their resume to hanatoursaipan670@gmail.com
Or fax to 234-3012 or can call office number 234-3011 for more information
from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

IAM CORPORATION DBA JEJU AIR SAIPAN LOUNGE
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) TOUR GUIDE
JOB DUTIES:
Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months work experience as tour guide
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character
- Able to read an speak in Korean language

Salary: 9.23/hr
These job opportunities are temporary full-time position

(2) TRAVEL AGENTS
JOB DUTIES:
Plan and sell transportation and accommodations for travel agency customers, determine destination modes of transportation, travel dates, costs and accommodations required, may also described plan and arrange itineraries and sell tour packages, may assist in resolving clients travel problems.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With one-year work experience as travel agent
- With computer skills required
- Able to read and understand English and Korean language
- And can communicate with our main office in Korea

Salary: 14.84/hr to 18.00/hr
These job opportunities are temporary full-time position

Interested Applicants can email their resume to jejuloungesaipan@naver.com
Or fax to 233-3004 or can call office number 233-3004 for more information
from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

HANA TOUR SERVICE INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) TOUR GUIDE
JOB DUTIES:
Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions, escort individuals, or groups to cruises, sightseeing tours or thru places of interest such as individual establishments, public buildings, and art galleries, conduct education activities for school for school children, monitor visitors activities, to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices, provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With at least 6 months' work experience as tour guide
- With customer service-oriented person
- With good moral character
- Able to read an speak in Korean language

Salary: 9.23/hr
These job opportunities are temporary full-time position

(10) OPENINGS FOR TRAVEL AGENTS
JOB DUTIES:
Plan and sell transportation and accommodations for travel agency customers, determine destination modes of transportation, travel dates, costs and accommodations required, may also described plan and arrange itineraries and sell tour packages, may assist in resolving clients travel problems.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be high school graduate
- With one-year work experience as travel agent
- With computer skills required
- Able to read and understand English and Korean language
- And can communicate with our main office in Korea

Salary: 14.84/hr to 18.00/hr

(1) ACCOUNTANT
JOB DUTIES:
Analyze financial information and prepare financial reports to determine or maintain record of assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liability or other financial activities within the organization

REQUIREMENTS:
Must be college graduate with bachelor's degree in Accounting, with work experience of at least 2 yrs or 24 months required and willing to work flexible time
Salary: 12.08 /hour

Interested Applicants can email their resume to hanatoursaipan670@gmail.com
Or fax to 234-3012 or can call office number 234-3011 for more information
from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

E & F CORPORATION
Has an opening for
RESERVATIONS SALES AGENT (1)

Job Duties:
1.) Make arrangements for Hotel/Restaurant/Optional Tour Reservations of tourist customers.
2.) Make daily schedules for Korean customer's trip itinerary.
3.) Make Inquiry on hotel availability.
4.) Coordinate with tourist customers/hotels/restaurants/optional tour companies in making any requests from tourist customers.
5.) Coordinate with Tour Companies in Korea in regards with upcoming/arriving tourist customers.
6.) Make reports on daily tour activities.
7.) Make Hotel/Restaurant/optional tour payments.

Requirements:
- At least High school Graduate.
- Must be knowledgeable in computer programs (Excel, Word and Online Reservation System)
- Must know how to operate simple office machines such as fax/telephone and computer.
- Good verbal and written communication skill required.
- Must be able to read, write and speak Korean Language for better communications with the main office and with the customers.
- At least 1 year related experience in travel/tourism industry.
- Police clearance required.
- Valid Driver's License Required.
- Previous Job Certificate required.

Salary: $ 8.54 per hour
This is a temporary full time position

Interested applicants Send resume to enfcorp17@gmail.com
or call 1-670-234-1667 (Monday- Friday 9am to 6pm, except holidays)

E & F CORPORATION
Has an opening for
TOUR GUIDE (3)

Job Duties:
1.) Handle pre-arrange package tours & activities surrounding in-bound tours, have the ability to carry out activities numerated in the package tour.
2.) Prepares reports on tour activities, correspond with tour activities.
3.) Correspond with tour operators in Korea.
4.) Prepare exit & arrival schedules.
5.) Formulate, organize and execute an attractive and competitive tour package to be sold to Korean tourists, who are based in Korea.
6.) Confirms reservations, arranges sales of optional tours or services.
7.) Assist in selling of optional tours, assist customers on daily basis in explaining all the optional tours and rental items available and perform other duties as assigned or as required.
8.) Explain the different optional tours available on the island.
9.) Explain and inform tourist customers about the different historic tourist spots on the island to give each customer knowledge about the islands history and its significance to the people of Saipan.

Requirements:
- Two years related experience in Tour/ Travel Industry.
- Must be able to speak, read and write the Korean language for better communication with the tourist customers.
- Computer skill required (Microsoft-Office-Excel/Word)
- At least High school Graduate.
- Traffic and police clearance required- Applied Equally to US and CW-1 Workers.
- Must possess a Tour Guide Certificate from MVA/NMC.
- Must possess a valid CNMI Driver's License.
- Must be willing to work with flexible schedule.
- Previous work experience required- Applied Equally to US and CW-1 Workers.

Salary: $ 10.36 per hour
This is a temporary full time position

Interested applicants Send resume to enfcorp17@gmail.com or call 1-670-234-1667
(Monday to Friday 9am-6pm, except holiday).

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Simmons, 76ers agree to $170M, 5-year deal

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers and star guard Ben Simmons have agreed to a $170 million, five-year contract extension, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. The max deal is the latest big commitment by a team expected to make a serious push at its first NBA championship since 1983.

Simmons, 22, will make about $8.1 million this season, the last of his four-year rookie deal. His salary for the next season will jump to about $29.3 million and rise to nearly $39 million in 2024-25, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Monday because the contract is not official.

The deal solidifies the 76ers' core for the next few seasons. All-Star Joel Embiid and Al Horford are under contract though 2023, Tobias Harris through 2024 and now Simmons through 2025. Horford got a $109 million, four-year deal and Embiid agreed last season to a $147 million, five-year deal.

Sixers general manager Elton Brand had until the middle of October to reach a max deal with Simmons but wasted little time in locking up another cornerstone player.

Simmons was the No. 1 overall draft pick in the 2016. He made his NBA debut in the 2017-18 season and was Rookie of the Year. He was an All-Star for the first time last season. He has averaged 16.4 points, 8.5 rebounds and 7.9 assists in his two seasons.

"I think I want to work on everything and continue to let my game grow," Simmons said at the end of the season. "I think the one thing I got a lot better at this season was leadership."

The Sixers were knocked out of the Eastern Conference semifinals for the second straight season.

Philadelphia is 101-58 in regular-season games when Simmons plays. He has had 22 triple-doubles in the last two seasons, tied for third most in the league with Denver's Nikola Jokic and trailing Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook (59) and the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (26).

Simmons also has had 80 double-doubles over the last two seasons.

But he missed all 11 3-point attempts his rookie season and was 0 for 6 last season, a combination of an awkward shooting form and a hesitancy to keep shooting shots he can't make. Defenses sagged on Simmons daring him to shoot because the speedy All-Star can't do much outside the paint.

"I don't think it's taking shots just to take them," Simmons said. "I think it's just being aggressive and doing my job. I don't think it's any certain shot. But when you give me the ball, I'm able to make plays."

Harris, who re-signed with the Sixers this summer on a $180 million, five-year contract, recently worked out with Simmons in Los Angeles and found him dedicated to improving his shot.

"Everybody was trying to figure out why I was guarding him at the 3-point line, but it was really because he hit two of them," Harris said. "When I dared him to shoot two of them, he hit two in a row. That's why I was there. He's made big improvements on his game. His jump shot is looking really good and he has the confidence to shoot."



AP

Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons (25) drives between Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard (2) and forward Norman Powell, right, during the second round NBA basketball playoff action in Toronto, Monday, April 29, 2019.

Cavs waive J.R. Smith

Cleveland released the colorful shooting guard Monday before his $15.6 million contract for next season became guaranteed. The Cavs had been trying to trade Smith for months, but the team was unable to find the right deal even after he agreed to extend his guarantee date from June 30 to July 15.

By waiving Smith, the Cavaliers will open salary-cap space and will move under the luxury tax threshold for next season.

The 33-year-old played in just 11 games last season after he stepped away from the team in hopes of being traded or released. It was a mutual decision because he wasn't happy with his role and the Cavaliers didn't want him to be a negative influence on their young players.

CP3 criticized

Chris Paul, the teammate and person is much more polarizing. Former NBA player Kenyon Martin gave voice in 2012 to the belief that Paul is commonly disliked in NBA circles, describing his former teammate as "sneaky" in an interview with Colin Cowherd.

A Sunday report from The Athletic's Ethan Strauss reinforced that lack of trust for Paul, but on a larger scale. Strauss cited an anonymous NBA player who chastised Paul for his belief that he only advocated for elite NBA players in his role as president of the National Basketball Players Association.

The anonymous player criticized Paul for looking out for "the banana-boat crew" at the expense of lower tier players.

The banana-boat crew consists of Paul, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony, famously close friends and all at some point among the league's best and highest-paid players.

"They advocate for the interests of max players and super-max players," the source said of Paul and his fellow union reps. "Basically, the CBA has helped the whole banana-boat crew from back in the day. It's taken from the mid level. I think middle-tier players aren't getting that mid-level money anymore."

Old Nets think Durant, Irving can succeed where they didn't

NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving gave the Brooklyn Nets two big victories in one night.

"They hit the Mega Millions and the Powerball," former NBA star Charles Oakley said.

In the first hours of free agency, the Nets added two of the best players available to a young roster that made the playoffs, giving them hope of not only contention for an NBA title, but to be the biggest basketball team in New York.

The Nets have gone after both before and gotten neither.

There was the 2012 acquisition of Joe Johnson to play with point guard Deron Williams, a pairing that was touted as "Brooklyn's Backcourt."

Then there was the trade the next year for Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett, a mega-deal that landed the Nets the cover of "Sports Illustrated."

It didn't get them anywhere close to a title, though.

So it would be easy to mix caution in with optimism, but former Nets who were back at Barclays Center on Sunday to play in the BIG3 think things can be different this time.

"I think they're going to be great," Johnson said. "I think it's a lot different now."

In his mind, the key change is the Nets' practice facility in Brooklyn that the team was just starting to move into when he accepted a buyout during the 2015-16 season. Before then, the Nets were still practicing in East Rutherford, New Jersey, even though they had been playing their games in Brooklyn since 2012.

"A lot of guys were staying in Jersey so the commute over here was tough, man," Johnson said. "Riding in a car for two, 2 1/2 hours and then get out and have to warm up and play. That was tough."

Johnson said he would leave his home in Cresskill, New Jersey on game days a little before 3 p.m. to arrive at Barclays Center by 5:30. The current practice home, rising high above the Brooklyn streets and with a fancy view looking over the river toward Manhattan, will allow Durant and Irving a life he never lived as a Net.

"Oh, they'll have it made in the shade," Johnson said.

Johnson and Williams, along with Brook Lopez, led the Nets to a 49-33 record in the first season in Brooklyn, before the Nets lost to Chicago in seven games in the first round of the playoffs. The trade with Boston came a couple months later and brought outsized expectations, but the Nets actually had a worse record the following season, going 44-38, though they did reach the second round.

Reggie Evans, who played on both teams, thought the less-heralded team was the better one. While he praised Pierce, Garnett and Jason Terry, who also came in the trade, for their professionalism and work ethic, they were near the end of their careers by the time they donned their Brooklyn black jerseys. Garnett was 37 at the time of the trade, and Pierce and Terry would turn 36 before the 2013-14 season started.

Durant is 30 and Irving 27.

"So what we got was smart, wise guys who know the game. Very smart, you know what I'm saying?" Evans said. "So it's two different scenarios, but I like what they've got going on."

He added that both players should be at ease in New York, whereas Williams, acquired from Utah to be the first franchise star in Brooklyn, never quite seemed comfortable.

"I love D-Will, I just think it's a lot of pressure being up under these lights in New York," Evans said. "It takes a real, real soldier to play here."

What about Durant and Irving?

"KD and Kyrie ain't going to have no trouble playing in front of these bright lights," he said. "Period."

The Nets' haul so thoroughly dwarfed the Knicks' that Knicks President Steve Mills put out a statement hours after free agency opened acknowledging his fans' disappointment. New York went on to sign some solid veterans who should help it improve, but no marquee names.

Giants rout Rockies to sweep doubleheader



AP

San Francisco Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval, front, tags out Colorado Rockies' Garrett Hampson who scrambles back to third base while advancing on an error in the third inning of a baseball game Monday, July 15, 2019, in Denver.

DENVER (AP)—Brandon Crawford homered three times and drove in nine runs over the course of two games Monday, and the San Francisco Giants beat the Colorado Rockies 2-1 in the nightcap to complete a sweep of a split doubleheader.

Crawford followed Stephen Vogt's homer off Chi Chi Gonzalez (0-2) leading off the fourth with one of his own. It was the second time on the day he was part of a back to back set.

In the first game, Crawford went 5 for 6 with two homers and tied a San Francisco team record with eight RBIs as the Giants scored a season high in runs in a 19-2 rout of the Rockies.

Dereck Rodriguez (4-5), recalled from Triple-A Sacramento prior to the second game, pitched five innings and allowed one run on four hits. He struck out six and walked none and kept the Rockies in the yard during his outing. The Giants got four innings of scoreless relief, capped by Will Smith, who got three outs for his 24th save. Crawford had a sparkling defensive play in the ninth to help put the game away, making a diving stop of Nolan Arenado's grounder and flipping the ball to second baseman Donovan Solan for a force out.

Gonzalez, who was recalled from Triple-A Albuquerque prior to the second game, went five innings and allowed five hits, including the successive homers to Vogt and Crawford. It was the third time this season San Francisco has had back to back home runs in a game and the second time in the double header. Crawford and Mike Yastrzemski went back to back in the first inning of the first game, which was a makeup for a May 8 rainout.

Garrett Hampson, the fleet infielder who pulled off the rare feat of scoring from second base on an infield groundout in a Rockies' win over Cincinnati on Sunday, was twice tagged out on the basepaths in Monday's nightcap. He reached on an error in the third inning and after right fielder Austin Slater dropped Charlie Blackmon's fly ball for an error, Hampson made a dash for home but slipped and fell rounding third.

Angels 9, Astros 6

In Anaheim, Albert Pujols got three hits and drove in three runs, and the Los Angeles Angels remained unbeaten since the All-Star break with a 9-6 victory over the AL West-leading Houston Astros.

Mike Trout didn't play due to a strained right calf, but Pujols picked up the slack with his first three-hit game since May 13. Andrelton Simmons also homered while the Angels rallied from an early three-run deficit and improved to 7-3 since pitcher Tyler Skaggs' death, including four straight home victories out of the break.

Pujols had an RBI double in the fourth inning and a two-run single during the Angels' four-run fifth, and the 39-year-old slugger even scored twice with clever baserunning.

George Springer hit two homers for the Astros, who opened a four-game series with their third loss in five games.

Jose Altuve played shortstop for the first time in three years after a defensive switch in the late innings for the Astros, whose patchwork lineup hasn't stopped them from building a comfortable cushion in the AL West again.

Los Angeles overcame a wild start by rookie Griffin Canning, who walked six and threw four wild pitches while getting just four outs.

Five relievers combined for 7 2/3 resilient innings, with Taylor Cole throwing 3 1/3 innings of three-hit ball in his first appearance since combining with Félix Peña on their no-hitter in the Angels' cathartic 13-0 victory over Seattle last Friday. Justin Anderson (3-0) got the win, and Hansel Robles secured his 14th save.

Rays 5, Yankees 4

In New York, Travis d'Arnaud hit three home runs, including a three-run shot with two outs in the ninth inning off Aroldis Chapman, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Yankees.

D'Arnaud tied a Tampa Ray record for homers in a game. It has been done five times, most recently by Evan Longoria in 2012.

The Yankees had been 49-0 this season when leading after eight innings. The Rays won for just the second time in seven games in the Bronx this year and cut the Yankees' lead in the AL East to five games.

Andrew Kittredge (1-0) got the win despite allowing Edwin Encarnacion's second homer of the game, a two-run shot in the eighth that put the Yankees up 4-2. Oliver Drake got one out for his first save.

Dodgers 16, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Cody Bellinger hit his 32nd and 33rd homers, Clayton Kershaw struck out seven in six innings and major league-leading Los Angeles routed the Phillies.

Bellinger passed reigning NL MVP Christian Yelich for the MLB lead in homers. He clubbed solo shots in the fifth and sixth for his 11th career multi-homer game and fourth this season

Kershaw (8-2) gave up one run and four hits and retired 11 of the last 12 batters he faced.

Philadelphia's Zach Eflin (7-9) allowed seven runs and nine hits in six innings. After three relievers surrendered seven runs, Phillies manager Gabe Kapler brought in outfielder Roman Quinn to finish the game.

Red Sox 10, Blue Jays 8

In Boston, Rookie Michael Chavis hit his first grand slam, Xander Bogaerts had three hits and Andrew Benintendi drove in three runs as the Red Sox beat Toronto.

Boston batted around for five runs in the first inning against starter Trent Thornton (3-7) and then sent 10 batters to the plate in the third, scoring five more.

Rick Porcello (7-7) gave up four runs and eight hits in six innings, striking out two. Brandon Workman pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Four of the first five batters reached safely against Thornton before Chavis hit a 3-2 pitch 421 feet over the Green Monster in left-center to make it 5-0. It was his 16th homer, and the first grand slam of his career.

Billy McKinney hit a two-run homer for Toronto.

Indians 8, Tigers 6

In Cleveland, Oscar Mercado hit his second home run of the game—a leadoff blast in the seventh inning—and the Indians beat Detroit.

Mercado homered into the bleachers in left field off Victor Alcántara (3-2) to break a 5-all tie. Mercado also hit a solo home run off Detroit starter Daniel Norris in the fifth. Mike Freeman had a two-run shot in the second.

The Indians have won nine of 10 against the Tigers this season, including eight in a row.

The game was delayed for 54 minutes in the top of the seventh by heavy rain and strong winds.

Jordy Mercer homered twice, and Jeimer Candelario and Christin Stewart also went deep for Detroit.

Reds 6, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Eugenio Suárez and Yasiel Puig each hit his 22nd home run of the season, and Cincinnati rallied past the Cubs.

Jesse Winker raced home with an unearned go-ahead run to cap a two-run seventh inning that made a winner of All-Star Luis Castillo.

Curt Casali sent the first pitch from reliever Steve Cishek (2-5) in the seventh into the left-field bleachers to tie it at 3. Winker pinch-hit for Castillo and singled, then the Reds jumped on errors by two usually sure-handed Cubs infielders to take the lead.

Castillo (9-3) allowed three runs on seven hits and struck out 10 through six innings. Raisel Iglesias got five outs for his 17th save.

Royals 5, White Sox 2

In Kansas City, Jakob Junis struck out a career-high 10 and Nicky Lopez drove in a pair of runs and scored twice as Kansas City beat Chicago.

The Royals beat Lucas Giolito for the first time and thwarted his bid for a 12th victory. The right-hander entered the game 6-0 with a 2.13 ERA in 10 previous career starts against Kansas City.

Junis (5-8) worked seven innings and gave up one run, James McCann's 10th homer of the season.

Whit Merrifield extended his hitting streak to 13 games (.358, 19 for 53) with a bunt single in the seventh. He leads the majors with 122 hits.

Braves 4, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Freddie Freeman hit a three-run shot, his 25th home run of the season, and Max Fried pitched five scoreless innings as Atlanta beat the Brewers.

The Braves won their fifth straight and moved a season-best 21 games over .500.

Fried (10-4) gave up three hits and struck out five on 78 pitches. Luke Jacksno pitched the ninth for his 17th save of the season.

Right-hander Adrian Houser (2-4) fell to 0-4 as a starter this season after allowing four earned runs on eight hits in six innings.

Milwaukee stranded seven baserunners and has dropped five of six and eight of 10 games.

Ryan Braun hit his 13th home run and Keston Hiura brought home the Brewers' other run with an RBI triple.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 0

In St. Louis, Miles Mikolas pitched a complete-game, eight-hitter and Tyler O'Neill hit a pair of two-run homers, leading the Cardinals over Pittsburgh.

It was the first complete game this season and second overall for Mikolas (6-9). He struck out three and walked none while throwing 100 pitches.

St. Louis has won three in a row.

O'Neill had his first career multi-homer game, and drove in four runs for the second time in the last three games.

Joe Musgrove (6-8) gave up five runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings. He struck out seven and walked three along with a hit batter.

The Pirates have lost four straight.

Djokovic could catch Federer, Nadal in Grand Slams

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Novak Djokovic never has been this close to Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in the Grand Slam trophy count.

Given the way Djokovic edged Federer in a thrilling Wimbledon final for his fourth championship at the past five major tournaments, there is little reason to think the 32-year-old Serb doesn't have a realistic shot at catching his two great rivals at the top of tennis.

Federer owns the men's record of 20 Slams, Nadal has 18, Djokovic 16.

The chase is really and truly on now.

"For him, it's the goal, absolutely," said Djokovic's coach, Marian Vajda.

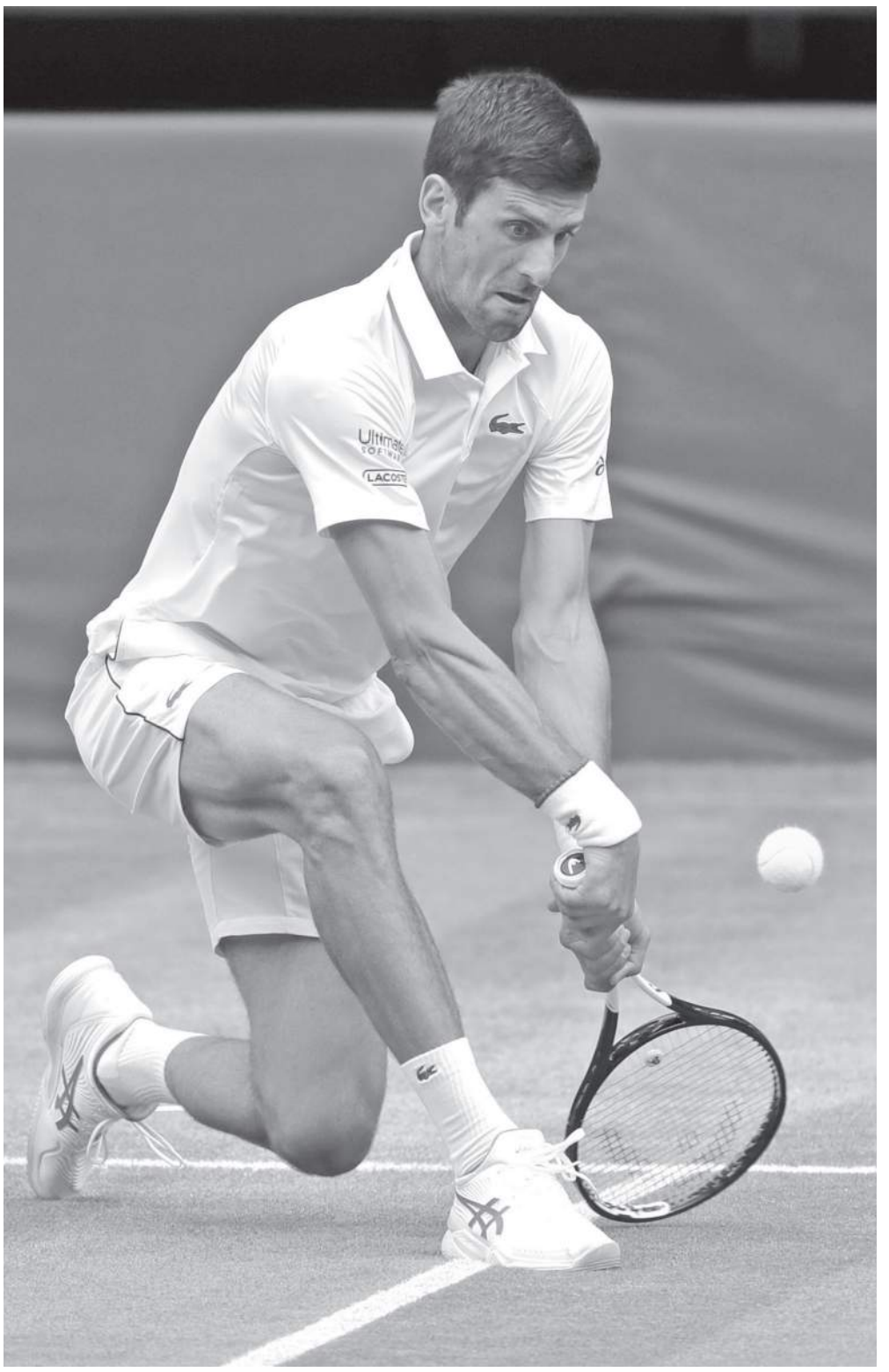
Djokovic's 7-6 (7-5), 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 13-12 (7-3) victory Sunday offered some insight about what the future might hold and what his place in the hierarchy eventually could become.

At 4 hours, 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final in history.

More remarkably, Djokovic became the first man since 1948 to win the title at the All England Club after facing championship points; Federer was on the verge of winning while serving at 8-7, 40-15 in the fifth set.

But Djokovic took the next two points and, eventually, was better in the closing tiebreaker, instituted at 12-all in deciding sets at Wimbledon for the first time this year.

If the consensus is that Federer's excellence is defined by the word "elegance," and Nadal's by "doggedness," then Djokovic's might be best distilled to "clutchness."



AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a shot to Switzerland's Roger Federer during the men's singles final match of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Sunday, July 14, 2019.

As Sunday's match stretched into the evening, one element of their respective past performances at Wimbledon seemed particular relevant: Djokovic is now 8-1 in five-setters there; Federer 7-7. Against each other? Djokovic is 4-0.

Turned out the words spoken by eight-time Wimbledon champion Federer two days before the final were rather prescient: "It comes very much down to who's better on the day, who's in a better mental place, who's got more energy left, who's tougher when it really comes to the crunch."

Federer lost despite winning more total points, 218-204, and dominating just about every other significant statistic, too: aces (25-10), service breaks (7-3), winners (94-54) and so on.

The key: Djokovic won all three tiebreakers, the sort of can't-take-a-point-off segment of a match that is as much dependent on how capable a player is of steeling oneself as it is about this or that particular stroke.

In the moments that meant the most, when the sets were at stake, when the outcome was in the balance, Djokovic was superior.

Seven times, Federer was two points away from taking the opening set. Djokovic didn't allow it. Federer was one point from seizing the third. Again, Djokovic prevented it.

And then, just like when he erased two match points each time in the 2010 and 2011 U.S. Open semifinals, Djokovic came back from the brink to win.

"A mental battle, more than anything else," Vajda said. "It was all about focus there at the end."

For years, in part because he zoomed past Pete Sampras' old mark of 14 Grand Slam titles, Federer was considered by many to be the greatest male tennis player in history. Then Nadal earned his supporters and created a debate, not so much by accumulating his own impressive collection of trophies, but by repeatedly getting the better of Federer, including beating him in the epic 2008 Wimbledon final.

Djokovic has strengthened his case for being part of the conversation. Younger than both men—Nadal is 33; Federer turns 38 on Aug. 8—he is gaining on them in Slams, is the only member of the trio to have won four consecutive majors and holds an edge in the head-to-head series with each.

Against Nadal, he is 28-26.

Against Federer, he is 26-22 overall, 10-6 at majors and 3-1 at Wimbledon, including 3-0 in finals at the grass-court tournament.

Those, though, aren't the numbers people generally look at when trying to decide which of the Big Three deserves to be listed first.

Djokovic, No. 1 in the ATP rankings at the moment, knows what category matters the most to many.

"Those two guys (are) probably one of the biggest reasons I still compete at this level. The fact that they made history (in) this sport motivates me as well, inspires me to try to do what they have done, what they've achieved, and even more," said Djokovic, who has won 33 of his past 34 matches at majors.

"Whether I'm going to be able to do it or not," he added, "I don't know."

Neither do we. But it sure should be fun watching him try.

British Open: Woods tees off with Reed and Wallace

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland—Local favorite and 2011 British Open champion Darren Clarke will hit the first shot of the 148 th playing of the oldest championship in golf Thursday at Royal Portrush.

Three-time Claret Jug winner Tiger Woods will hit his first shot more than eight hours after Clarke kicks off the proceedings.

Woods, a victor in the Open in 2000, 2005 and 2006, is off at 10:10 a.m. ET (3:10 p.m. local time) and playing alongside Patrick Reed and Matthew Wallace. Woods, who played an 18-hole practice round with Reed on Sunday, played another 18 holes Monday with Dustin Johnson and Rickie Fowler.

Thursday will bring Woods' first shot in competition since finishing in a tie for 21 st in the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach more than a month ago. It's the second time this year Woods will go from one major to the next without a prep tournament. After winning the Masters - his fifth green jacket and 15th major—Woods didn't play for more than a month and missed the cut in the PGA Championship.

"The breaks are always great for my golf," Woods said Sunday. "I told you guys last year that I wasn't going to play as much this year, and it's going to turn out that way."

Woods said he doesn't fear doing too much too soon after not playing for more than a month. He had a bit more hop in his step on Monday under bright skies and played at a brisker pace.

"I do the same thing," he said. "I start from the green back. I putt, chip, pitch, short irons, mid-irons, long irons, woods. And then eventually play. Nothing has changed. The only difference is that there are certain days I can do a little more than others."

Clarke, who moved to Portrush when he was in his 20s, has spent more than a week showing off the town and the course which will play host to the Open for the first time since 1951. He has played practice rounds with the likes of Wallace, Adam Scott and Justin Rose.

Clarke hits the first shot at 1:35 a.m. ET.

Defending champion Francesco Molinari is playing at 4:58 a.m. ET alongside Scott and Bryson DeChambeau. Following that group at 5:09 a.m. ET is another local favorite, Rory McIlroy, who set the course record of 61 when he was 16. McIlroy will be joined by reigning U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland and Paul Casey.

At 5:20 a.m. ET, Fowler is out with Kevin Kisner and Hideki Matsuyama.

World No. 1 Brooks Koepka, who has won three of the last six majors and finished second in two others, is out with 2010 Open champion Louis Oosthuizen and Shubhankar Sharma at 8:04 a.m. ET.

Johnson, the world No. 2, is playing with Jason Day and Keegan Bradley at 9:59 a.m. ET.

The last group—Gunn Charoenkul, Yosuke Asaji and Ashton Turner—is off at 11:16 a.m. ET, nearly 10 hours after the first group starts.

Molinari faces long odds getting back claret jug

Golf's oldest championship is all about tradition, and this is in the distance, it all looked familiar. But it's not quite the same course.

The Royal & Ancient wanted two new holes—Nos. 7 and 8— to weave into the century-old links so that the final two holes could be used for concessions and promotional displays for more than 200,000 spectators expected this week.

The elevation is rare for links golf, especially courses in the British Open rotation, and there are fewer pot bunkers.

"We play a lot in England where it's quite flat," Tommy Fleetwood said. "And in front of you there's a lot more bunkers on those links courses. These have a few more undulations and a few more blind shots. Sure, in general if you hit a good shot there's always a bit of unpredictability on links golf. And you're going to get good breaks and bad breaks. But definitely, poor shots are going to get punished."

one Francesco Molinari could have done without.

Fifty-one weeks after he won the British Open and gazed at his name etched on the silver claret jug, he had to return it.

Getting it back won't be easy.

"I'm well aware of the challenges ahead," Molinari said Monday on the first day of official practice at Royal Portrush. "There's a lot of guys capable this week of winning the trophy. All I can do is do my best, try to put up a good defense and be in contention on Sunday. It's a long week ahead, so I'll try to take it step-by-step."

The first order of business was getting to know the links.

Molinari was among the 21 players who played the Irish Open in 2012 at Royal Portrush. The sharp elevation, sensational views of the limestone cliffs known as White Rocks and the Dunluce Castle

Sapong completes first race in Samoa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sprinter Zarinae Sapong competed in the 100m qualifying race in the XVI Pacific Games yesterday at the Apia Park Stadium's track oval and finished ahead of seven runners.

Sapong was on Heat 2 of the qualifier and timed in at 13.02 seconds, just a few seconds shy of her personal best (12.97 seconds). She was fifth on her heat and No. 12 overall, posting a better time against Guam's Richelle Tugade (13.13 seconds), the Solomon Islands' Jovita Arunia (13.37), Samoa's Taufagalupe Hunt (13.41), the Federated States of Micronesia's Darla Jonah (13.60), Kiribati's Ruta Tooma (13.74), and Samoa's Mileta Tino (13.81) and Danielle Tanielu (13.87).

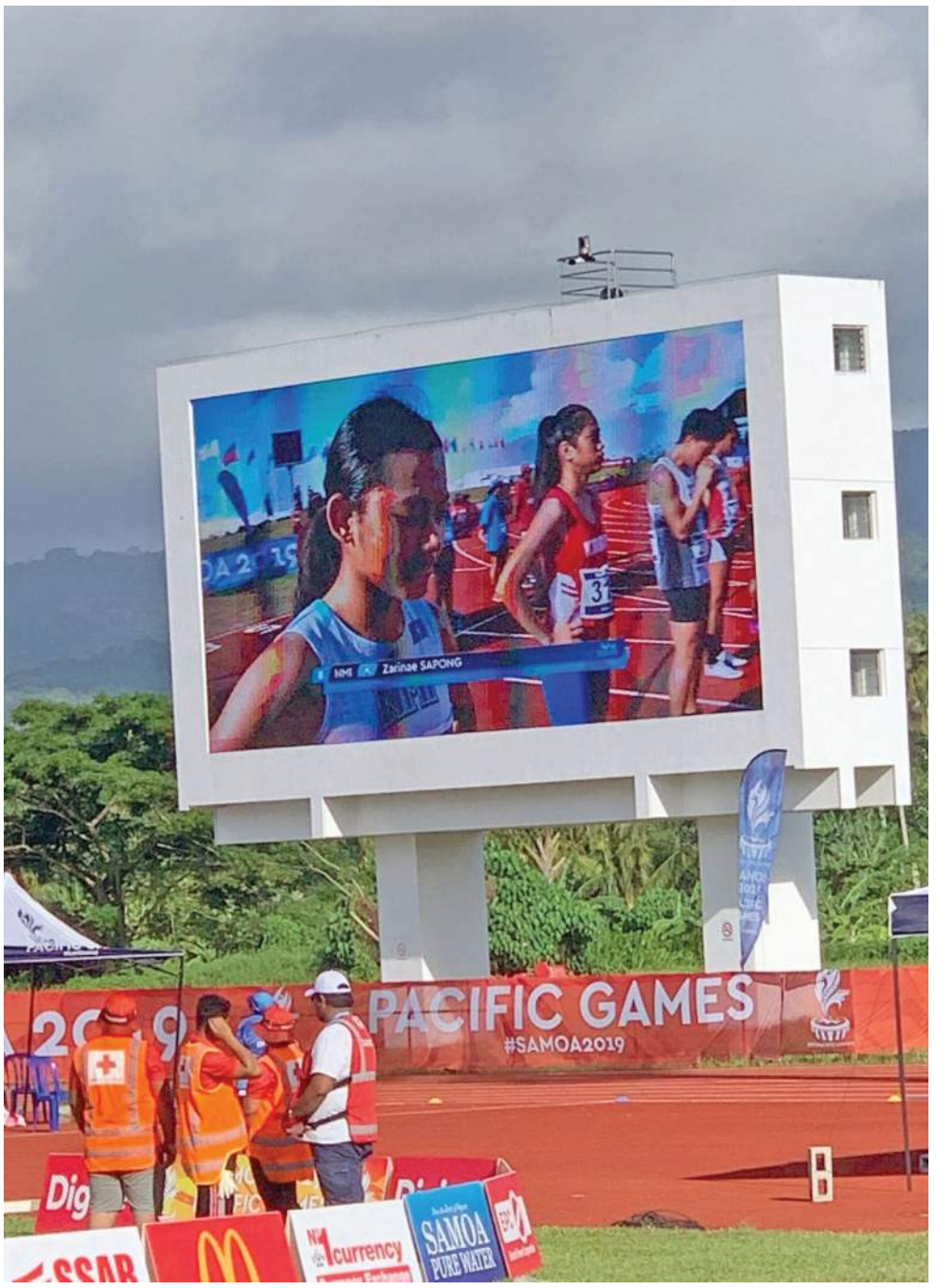
Papua New Guinea's Toea Wisil recorded the fastest qualifying time with her 11.50 seconds and was joined in the gold medal race by compatriots Adrine Monagi (12.28) and Leonie Beu (11.95), Tonga's Taina Halasima (12.08), Fiji's Younis Bese (12.21) and Heleina Young (11.97), New Caledonia's Esther Wejieme (12.07), and Guam's Regine Tugade (12.00). The gold medal race was scheduled yesterday evening and results were unavailable at press time.

With Sapong done with the 100m run, she has only one event left and will be racing in the 200m qualifying heat tomorrow. There are 19 runners entered in the 200m event, including Wisil, the oldest in the field at 31 years old, and is also the favorite.

In the men's 200m qualifying runs, the CNMI's Beo Ngirchongor and Traven Quitugua will be battling 29 other runners for the semis slots (16). The semis and finals runs will take place tomorrow.

Also set for Thursday is the javelin where Lia Rangamar will be representing the Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, the athletics competition will conclude this Saturday with Tania Tan closing out for the CNMI, as she races in the half marathon. Tan will be going up against the Solomon Islands' Dianah Matekali and Sharon Firisua, Vanuatu's Margaret Kuras, and PNG's Poro Gahekave. Gahekave and Matekali won the gold and bronze, respectively, in the 5,000m run last Monday.



LYDIA TAN
CNMI's Zarinae Sapong is introduced at the starting line during the qualifying run for the 100m race in the XVI Pacific Games yesterday at the Apia Park Stadium.

XVI PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL TALLY (As of 7pm/July 16)

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
New Caledonia	58	38	29	125
Samoa	26	26	30	82
Tahiti	24	25	26	75
Fiji	23	26	34	83
Australia	20	9	13	42
Papua New Guinea	14	30	18	62
New Zealand	7	8	4	19
Kiribati	6	9	2	17
Vanuatu	6	4	3	13
Nauru	5	2	14	21
Tonga	5	1	10	16
Solomon Islands	3	9	10	22
Cook Islands	3	3	7	13
Wallis and Futuna	2	4	2	8
Norfolk Island	2	2	3	7
Guam	1	7	3	11
Niue	1	1	1	3
Northern Mariana Islands	1	0	0	1
Tuvalu	1	0	0	1
American Samoa	0	4	3	7
Marshall Islands	0	1	2	3
Tokelau	0	0	1	1

ALL

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and Julianne Hall. Completing the roster are Gianna Griffin, Mia Carreon, Nathanette Blas, Jenny Ann Capayas, Andrei Kaithlynn Chavez, Marinel Falalimpa, Christina Atalig, Jannah Casarino, and Khristelle Itaas. Olympian Luem Khen Koo is the head coach, while Lalaine Pagarao and Jimmy Tang are the assistant coaches, and Angie Ito and Pam Carhill are the team manager and physiotherapist, respectively.

"The team is ready for Marianas Cup," said Koo, adding that the group's three-week training at the Tuloy Foundation in the Philippines allowed the players to sharpen their individual and teams skills for this Saturday's matchup.

"When they saw the skills of the players at the Tuloy Foundation, everyone realized how important hard work is. The players have also shown significant improvements on their vision of the game and how to play in tight situations," the head coach said.

Koo is also counting on the team's better fitness and the ability to push the pace of the game.

The CNMI players worked on their fitness level in the Philippines, as they practiced there twice a day, six days a week, plus they had regular training matches and participated in some outreach programs. When they returned to Saipan last Friday, the players just rested for the weekend and resumed their preparations for the Marianas Cup last Monday. The team will have its last training session today, while a send-off ceremony for both the women's and men's squads will be held tomorrow at the NMITC at 4:30pm.

SINCLAIR

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a chance to play in the medal round in the men's singles.

All but two of the quarterfinalists in the men's singles event are seeded players with No. 3 Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu, No. 7 Maca Rouas of New Caledonia, No.15 Heimanarii Lai San of Tahiti, and Matthew Stubbings of Papua New Guinea also advancing. Unranked Camden Camacho of Guam and Matavao Faleta Fanguna of Tonga completed the Round of 8 qualifiers.

In the women's singles, Lee is also in the quarterfinals and has to brace for her favored foe in the next round.

The No. 5 Lee eliminated No. 12 and New Caledonia's Leilany Ipunesso, 6-3, 6-1, to set up a Round of 8 duel against Pacific's No. 1 player and PNG's Abigail Tere-Apisah, who has yet to lose a game in the women's singles draw after blanking Tahiti's Chrissy Vongue and American Samoa's Charity Murrieta Sagiao.

In the mixed doubles play, Lee is with Sinclair and the No. 2 seed pair advanced to the quarterfinals, too following a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Vanuatu's Noah Molbaleh and Desiree Signo. Lee and Sinclair will go for the semis spot and a shot for a medal against No. 8 and Samoa's Leon Soonalole and Eleanor Schuster.



LYDIA TAN
Isabel Heras serves, while Robbie Schorr gets ready near the net during their mixed doubles game against American Samoa's Christian Duchnak and Kalani Soli in the XVI Pacific Games yesterday at the Apia Park Tennis Courts in Samoa.

"Colin and Carol may both play four matches each tomorrow (today) so it's going to be a huge day," head coach Jeff Race said.

Lee will be teaming up with Isabel Heras in the women's doubles and they will meet the Tahiti pair of Vongue and Estelle Tehau with a quarterfinals berth at stake. Heras, who is sick, played back-to-back singles matches yesterday, winning against Samoa's Sauleone Anasis Saipele, 6-4, 6-4, before losing to No. 4 Kalani Pisi Soli of American Samoa, 1-6, 1-6. Heras also played in the mixed doubles with Robbie Schorr and they were defeated by No. 7 Christian Duchnak and Soli, 6-4, 6-1.

After getting the boot in the mixed doubles, Schorr has one event left—the men's doubles—and he and Sinclair will play in the second round against the Solomon Islands' Charlie Benjamin and Popai Leon, who slipped past Tonga's Christopher and Taufa Maasi, 6-3, 2-6, 10-5.



Simmons, 76ers agree to $170M, 5-year deal

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Giants rout Rockies to sweep doubleheader

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CNMI AIMING FOR BACK-TO-BACK

All set for Marianas Cup



ANIANA



ATALIG



BLAS



BORJA



CAPAYAS



CARREON



CASARINO



CASTILLO



CHAVEZ



COSTALES



FALALIMPA



FRANCISCO



GRIFFIN



HALL



ITAAS



PODZIEWSKI



VILLAGOMEZ



WALLY

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Girls U19 National Team is ready for battle, as it takes on host Guam in the Marianas Cup 2019 this Saturday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

The visiting squad is bringing in 18 players for the 3pm match where the Commonwealth is aiming for a repeat of its thrilling 3-2 victory in last year's competition held at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Majority of the players from last year's winning team will be back to play against Guam this weekend. They are Guine Borja, Gillian Villagomez, Katrina Costales, Jerlyn Castillo, Emalyn Aniana, Britany Wally, Sharmaine Francisco,

See ALL on Page 27

Sinclair, Lee reach quarterfinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee and Colin Sinclair are still in contention in the singles and mixed doubles event in the XVI Pacific Games, as they marched into the quarterfinals yesterday at the Apia Park Tennis Courts in Samoa.

Sinclair made it to the Round of 8 in the men's singles event after cruising past No. 14 seed and Samoa's Leon Vainui Soonalola, 6-1, 6-1. In the quarterfinals, which will be played today, the No. 1 seed Sinclair will take on No. 5 and Fiji's William O'Connell, who outlasted No. 9 and Guam's Daniel Llarenas in the third round yesterday. A win over O'Connell will move Sinclair to the semifinals and

See SINCLAIR on Page 27



LYDIA TAN

The CNMI's Carol Lee returns to New Caledonia's Leilany Ipunesso during their third round game in the women's singles event in the XVI Pacific Games at the Apia Tennis Courts in Samoa yesterday.